



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

13 July 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Urges Halt to Clashes With Hamas [Sanaa VOP]	2
Five Factions Issue Statement [Sanaa VOP]	2
Factions To Hold Strategy Meeting in Tunis [Amman TV]	3
'Ashrawi—All Israeli Settlements 'Illegitimate' [Amman TV]	3
'Ashrawi—'No Radical Changes' in Talks Strategy [Jerusalem Radio]	3
'Arafat Addresses Palestinian Meeting in Cairo [MENA]	4
'Arafat To Arrive in Jordan, Meet King Husayn [AL-DUSTUR 12 Jul]	4
Commentary Views Israeli Negotiating Strategy [Algiers VOP]	5
Premature Granting of Loan Guarantees Questioned [Algiers VOP]	5

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Ministers Conclude Meeting [Colombo International]	6
Pakistan's Kanjoo on Meeting With India's Faleiro [Islamabad Radio]	6
Talks on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue To Continue [Pakistan TV]	7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Trial of FIS Leaders Resumes [Algiers Radio]	8
Court Rejects Plea; Trial Continues [Algiers Radio]	8
Defense Offers Explanation [Algiers Radio]	8
Trial Adjourns [Algiers Radio]	8
Further on Trial [Algiers Radio]	8
Military Court Not To Handle Boudiaf Case [Algiers Radio]	10
Annaba Magistrate on Case [Algiers TV]	10
'Legal Tangle' on Jurisdiction [Algiers Radio]	10
Explosion Damages Palace of Justice in Batna [Algiers Radio]	11
Gendarmes Attacked by Armed Gang in Maqtaa Lazrak [Algiers Radio]	11

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' [MENA]	11
Delivers al-Azad Message [SANA]	11
'Fruitful Cooperation' Noted [MENA]	11
Al-Shar' Departs 11 Jul [MENA]	12
'Arafat Arrives; To Meet Mubarak, Attend Meeting [MENA]	12
Mubarak Receives 'Arafat [MENA]	12
Peace Process 'Focus' of Talks [MENA]	12
Editorial Notes Formation of Israeli Cabinet [Cairo Radio]	13
Mubarak Addresses Troops Bound for Sarajevo [Cairo TV]	13
Mubarak Given Syrian, Saudi Messages [MENA]	14
Weapons Seized in Upper Egypt, Suspects Arrested [MENA]	14
Arrests of Fundamentalists 4 Jul Reported [AL-AHRAM 5 Jul]	14
Al-Jihad Military Figure, 'Extremists' Arrested [MENA]	14

Dayrut 'Exodus' Noted; Tension, Panic Prevail [Beirut AL-SAFIR 7 Jul]	14
Assembly Committee Approves Anti-Terrorism Bill [MENA]	15
Mubarak To Unveil New 'Framework' 22 July [MENA]	16
Musa Departs for UN for Debate on South Africa [MENA]	16

Sudan

Reportage on Recent SPLA Attacks on Juba	16
Suffers 'Great Loss' [SUNA]	16
Government Regains Control [London International]	16
Deputy Chief of Staff Comments [Omdurman Radio]	17
Garang on 'Heavy' Fighting [Kampala Radio]	17
Al-Bashir, Eritrean President Discuss Relations [SUNA]	17
Iraq's Ramadan Meets Al-Bashir, Praises Ties [Omdurman Radio]	18
Energy Minister Meets Iraqi Ambassador [SUNA]	18
RCC Member Receives Libyan Delegation [SUNA]	18
Cooperation Accord Signed With Turkish Parliament [SUNA]	18

Tunisia

Trials of al-Nahdah Defendants Open [Paris International]	18
Military Court Begins Trial 9 Jul [Tunis Radio]	19
Second Trial of Fundamentalists Opens [Paris International]	19
Ghannouchi Comments on Trial [Paris International]	20
More on Trial of al-Nahdah Members [Tunis Radio]	20
Trial of al-Nahdah Defendants Continues [Tunis Radio]	21

IRAQ

Further Protests Against UN Inspection Teams	22
Arabs Urged To End Silence on Teams [Baghdad Radio]	22
Arab Ministers Notified of 'Siege' [INA]	22
Minister on 'Fabricated Fuss' [INA]	22
Students Protest Against UN Team [Baghdad Radio]	23
Ramadan Meets Jordanian Delegation [INA]	23
Suicide Attempted in Protest of Team [INA]	24
Ramadan on Security Council's Position [INA]	24
Spokesman Denounces Jansen's Statements [Baghdad Radio]	24
Envoy to UN on 'Victims' of New World Order [INA]	25
Foreign Minister Comments on UN Employee Safety [INA]	26
Ba'th Official Urges Action To Release Assets [Baghdad Radio]	27
Turkish Decision on Forces 'Severed All Ties' [INA]	27
Speculation Follows Barzan al-Tikriti's Arrival [Voice of the Iraqi People]	27
Saddam Reportedly Bans Movement of Military [Voice of the Iraqi People]	28
Berlin Press Reports Government-in-Exile Planned [Berlin ADN]	28

ISRAEL

Rabin Addresses Labor Party Central Committee [Jerusalem Radio]	29
Rabin Announces Labor Party Ministers [Jerusalem Radio]	30
Further Reportage on Formation of New Government	30
Meretz Names Appointees to Ministries [Jerusalem Radio]	30
Tzomet To Vote Against Labor Government [Jerusalem Radio]	30
List of Ministers Reported [Jerusalem Radio]	31
Rabin Interviewed on Composition [Jerusalem TV]	31
Ministerial Appointments Reported [Jerusalem Radio]	32
Tzomet Leader—Party May Join Coalition [Jerusalem Radio]	33
Gur Named Deputy Defense Minister [Jerusalem Radio]	33
Tzomet Decision Not To Join 'Final' [Jerusalem Radio]	33
Rabin on Negotiations, Peres Appointment [Jerusalem Radio]	33
Letters of Commitment to Arab Parties [Jerusalem TV]	34

Shamir Interviewed on New Government, Retirement [Jerusalem Radio]	34
Shamir Addresses Last Cabinet Meeting [Jerusalem Radio]	36
Arens Interviewed on Retirement, Defense Issues [Jerusalem Radio]	37
Fatah, Hamas Sign Agreement To End Fighting [Jerusalem TV]	39
More Clashes; Hamas Rejects Agreement [Jerusalem TV]	40
'Ashrawi Released After 'Several Hours' Detention [Jerusalem Radio]	40
Minister Leaves For Morocco at King's Invitation [Jerusalem Radio]	40
Bush 'Desperate' To Make Up With Jewish Voters [HA'ARETZ 13 Jul]	40

LEBANON

Buwayz—'Too Early' for Talks With Israel [KUNA]	41
Water Resources Not Negotiable [VOL]	41
Al-Hirawi Interviewed on Election Issues [London AL-HAWADITH 10 Jul]	41
Speaker al-Husayni on Need for 'Ethical' Elections [VOL]	42
Nasrallah Vows To Prevent Pact With Israel [Voice of the Oppressed]	42
Nasrallah Deems Ba'th Coalition Possible [Voice of the Oppressed]	42
Defense Minister on Weapons Collection, Elections [VOL]	42
Police Begin Collecting Arms [Beirut Radio]	43
Arab League Meeting Termed 'Inadequate' [AL-SAFIR 6 Jul]	43
Reconciliation Committees To Aid Refugees' Return [Beirut Radio]	44

SYRIA

Editorials Urge Peace Efforts by Rabin Government [Damascus Radio]	45
Rabin 'Peace Dove' Image 'Trap' [Damascus Radio]	45
Lebanese Premier Meets With Khaddam, al-Zu'bi [Damascus Radio]	46
Khaddam, Lebanese Speaker Discuss National Accord [SANA]	46
Vice President Masharqah Returns From Sudan [Damascus Radio]	46

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Spokesman Says Disarming Mojahedin Suspended [Tehran TV]	47
New Plan Revealed [AFP]	47
Hekmatyar States Conditions for Elections [Radio Message of Freedom]	47
Warning Against Cooperation With Communists [Radio Message of Freedom]	48
Harakat-e Islami Leader Comments on Constitution [Tehran Radio]	49
Acting Foreign Minister Thanks Iran for Support [Tehran Radio]	49
Saudi Envoy Meets Officials; Pledges Assistance	50
Greets Prime Minister [Radio Message of Freedom]	50
Meets Defense Minister [Kabul Radio]	50

India

Latest Developments in Ayodhya Dispute Reported	50
BJP Government Faces Dissolution [Delhi Radio]	50
State Minister Asked To Report [Delhi Radio]	51
'Volatile Overtones' Noted [Delhi Radio]	51
Uttar Pradesh Chief Comments [Delhi Radio]	51
Construction Continues Amid Protests [Delhi Radio]	52
Team Assesses Situation [Delhi Radio]	53
Home Minister Wants More Security [Delhi Radio]	53
Polling Begins To Elect Ninth President [Delhi Radio]	53
Ram Jethmalani Withdraws From Presidential Race [Delhi Radio]	53
Ruling Party Candidate Wins Rajya Sabha Position [Delhi Radio]	54
New Cabinet Secretary Named [Delhi Radio]	54
INSAT-2A Satellite Placed in Intermediate Orbit [Delhi Radio]	54
Said Operating Normally [Delhi Radio]	54
Satellite Communication Station Commissioned [Delhi Radio]	54

Iran

Khamene'i Denies Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons [Tehran Radio]	54
U.S. Congressional Support for MKO Assailed [IRNA]	55
State Department Criticizes MKO [IRNA]	55
Accusation on Counterfeiting Dollars Rejected [IRNA]	56
Tehran Majles Deputy Discusses U.S. 'Onslaught' [RESALAT 6 Jul]	56
Daily Criticizes U.S. Stand on Bosnia-Herzegovina [IRNA]	57
Algerian Leader's 'Anti-Democratic Start' Noted [IRNA]	57
Editorial: Israel Scared by Islamic Movement [IRNA]	57
Daily Calls on Palestinians To Halt Conflict [IRNA]	58
'Suppression' of Tunisian Fundamentalists Decried [Tehran International]	59
Egypt Lambasted for Campaign Against Islamists [SALAM 30 Jun]	59
Besharati on Increased Ties With Saudi Arabia [TEHRAN TIMES 1 Jul]	60
Emami-Kashani Says Islamic Revolution Exported [Tehran Radio]	61
Ahmad Khomeini on Need To Keep People Informed [ABRAR 25 Jun]	61
Ja'fari Appointed Commander of Land Forces [Tehran Radio]	61
Revolutionary Guard Commander Interviewed [RESALAT 4 Jul]	62
Commentary Details Methods of 'Struggle' [Voice of Kurdistan]	63
Besharati, Kenyan Minister Discuss Ties, RSA [IRNA]	66
Wide-Ranging Bilateral Accord Signed With India [Delhi Radio]	67
Bank Governor Reports Positive Trade Balance [Tehran Radio]	67
Commentary Assails Tax on World Oil Imports [Tehran Radio]	67
Port Transportation, Shipping Figures Detailed [IRNA]	67
Construction Ministry, UNDP To Build Plants [IRNA]	68
Deputy Minister Explains Reasons for Power Cuts [Tehran TV]	68

Sri Lanka

Troops Begin Final Phase of Clearing Isakachchi [Colombo International]	68
Strategic Town Captured [Colombo International]	68
Overnight Death Toll Reaches 266 in Latest Battle [AFP]	69
Heavy LTTE Casualties in Mannar, Vavuniya [LANKAPUVATH]	69
Army Reports 46 Soldiers, 25 Terrorists Killed [LANKAPUVATH]	69
Tamil Inflict Heavy Army Casualties [AFP]	70
47 Killed in Army Camp Attack [AFP]	70

Israel

Yitzhaq Rabin, Labor party chairman and prime minister-designate, addressed the Labor party's Central Committee on the formation of the new government 12 July, Jerusalem radio reported. "The guidelines have been laid down, and the coalition agreements have been presented to the Knesset," Rabin said. The new government will include "the Labor party in the center, Meretz on one side, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] on the other," the radio further reported. Rabin also presented the list of Labor ministers for the new government. In other news, Jerusalem TV reported an agreement had been reached between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] 10 July. Nevertheless, clashes between activists in Gaza "continued" 11 July "after the Hamas leadership announced that it could not accept the agreement." Over the weekend, another 32 Gaza Strip residents were injured, Jerusalem TV added. Meanwhile, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi arrived home 12 July after crossing the Allenby bridge on her way back from Amman, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the report 'Ashrawi was detained at the bridge for several hours and her belongings were searched. She also received a summons for an interrogation by police.

Iraq

An Iraqi man attempted to immolate himself in protest of the UN inspection team's demand to inspect the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad, INA disclosed. A joint UN chemical, biological and ballistic inspection team has been waiting outside the ministry for more than a week pending Iraqi consent to search the building, according to the news agency.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i said the "false rumor" that Iran has a nuclear weapon "is a vicious measure taken by the United States and Zionism," Tehran radio reported. In another development, IRNA asserted that the letter signed by 219 U.S. congressmen calling for support for the MKO is "evidence of U.S. involvement in the terroristic acts of the outlawed MKO." Meanwhile, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL denied reports that Iran and Syria have been counterfeiting U.S. dollars and charged that the U.S. Government is using fake currency "as a tool of subversion in its foreign policy," according to IRNA.

Tunisia

The military court in Tunis began to consider the case of 171 activists from the "so-called al-Nahdah Movement" 9 July, Tunis radio reported. A second group of 108, mostly members of the armed forces, police and customs agents went on trial 10 July, the radio further reported. The accused face the death penalty for "conspiracy against the internal security of the state with the intention of changing the regime," among other charges.

India

INSAT-2A, a domestically produced multipurpose satellite, was "successfully" launched into intermediate orbit on 11 July from French Guyana, Delhi radio reported. The satellite, launched by an Ariane-4 rocket, was said to be operating normally. Meanwhile, the country's first satellite mobile communication land-earth station was dedicated at Arvi by the minister of state for communications, according to Delhi radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Urges Halt to Clashes With Hamas

JN1007182092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Statement issued by Fatah Central Committee; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Fatah Central Committee held an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon, 9 July 1992, to follow the grave developments in the Gaza Strip, which are causing trouble for the Palestinian national struggle, affecting Palestinian national unity, and distracting the attention of the sons of our Palestinian people from resisting the occupation and its unjust and repressive measures.

The Central Committee stressed the movement's firm and permanent position, emphasizing the need to prevent clashes and calling for an immediate and decisive halt to confrontations and clashes in the Gaza Strip, which are being exploited by the Zionist enemy occupier. The Central Committee also acquainted itself with the statement issued in Amman by the Muslim Brotherhood leadership in Jordan, the official spokesman for Hamas, and the Fatah cadres in Amman at a good initiative of the general controller of the Muslim Brotherhood, brother Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, as well as the good efforts of the national and religious forces.

While the Central Committee absolutely stresses and supports the statement, which calls for an immediate and decisive halt to all the fighting and clashes in the Gaza Strip and for making every effort to resist the occupation and repulse the Zionist enemy occupying our land, it stresses the importance of national unity, constructive dialogue, and freedom of opinion under the canopy of democracy, in which we take pride.

The Central Committee was surprised by claims that brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Fatah Movement intend to cut to size or end the Hamas Movement, on the understanding that the Fatah Movement and president Abu-'Ammar have always been eager to maintain national unity and close ranks out of belief in democracy and national dialogue as the only way to achieve our national goals, liberation, and national independence. This, it says, is stressed by brother Abu-'Ammar's numerous monthly messages addressed to the masses of our people in our occupied territories on the blessed intifadah.

The Fatah Movement draws attention to the seriousness of involvement in peripheral problems at the expense of the principal confrontation of the occupation forces, the intifadah, and struggle to liberate holy Jerusalem. Out of eagerness to maintain this national policy, the Fatah Movement stresses its call for bolstering responsible dialogue. We are absolutely confident that the masses of

our people are the shield which protects our struggle and which will safeguard and support it until victory. Glory and eternity to our righteous martyrs. It is a revolution until victory.

Five Factions Issue Statement

JN1007190492 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] of statement issued by five Palestinian factions in the occupied territories on 8 July—read by announcer]

[Text] For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. Thus doth God set forth parables [koranic verse]. O masses of our heroic people: While the forces of evil and aggression are trying to encroach on our people's resources and bypass their legitimate right to liberate and establish an independent Palestinian state, which needs the mobilization of all efforts. While we are stressing that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, from time to time, Hamas is fabricating problems with the PLO's factions, the latest of which is the current conflict between Fatah and Hamas under weak pretexts.

O masses of the intifadah: While we, the national forces affiliated with the PLO, stress our people's unity, urge Hamas to stop all attacks and encroachments, halt all practices that may increase conflict and tension, [word indistinct] those who have weight and sound vision of our people's interests, and give priority to public welfare over narrow factional interests conflicting with the masses' interests.

We stress that hurting or attacking any element of any faction or any individual of our displaced Palestinian people is an attack on the PLO. The PLO is working continuously to overcome the conflict among the sons of the one people so that the rifle can remain pointed at the Zionist enemy and its supporters. It also stresses the need to work for our people's national interests but will not allow the continuation of the current situation [words indistinct] the Palestinian street. It will not sit back with folded arms and it will carry out a one-man strike with an iron hand on everybody trying to tamper with our steadfast Palestinian people's resources, achievements, and interests.

We stress our people's unity and our continued eagerness to support the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. We clearly and frankly urge all the honorable persons among our people to frankly say who has caused the problems and which side is insisting on fighting. Ask everyone who has participated in efforts to achieve reconciliation and you will find the right answer.

O masses of the confrontation: We thank you for your courageous stand in the face of the enemy through the

PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. This is your principled, permanent position. May God guide your steps as supporters and defenders of right. Glory to our righteous martyrs, and disgrace to the traitors and defeatists. Long live the PLO as a symbol of our struggle and as a sole legitimate representative of our people. Long live our people's blessed intifadah. With God's help, we will achieve victory.

[Signed] Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian People's Party

Factions To Hold Strategy Meeting in Tunis

JN1207171192 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] The Palestinian leadership will hold an expanded meeting in Tunis on 20 or 21 July to discuss strategy for the next stage of negotiations following the recent Israeli elections. Prior to the start of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Rome, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, has said that the meeting will include all Palestinian factions. In a statement to our political affairs correspondent, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said:

[Begin recording] Israel, of course, has held its elections. These elections have shown that the Jewish people, the Israeli people, want change. What is the extent of this change, however? Is it in our interest or not? This is what the Palestinian leadership should discuss. It should review the situation and the statements by Rabin and his group. The leadership will then decide on the plan it should adopt and see what is in the best interest of its cause, how it is going, and how it fits in with developments.

The leadership will then decide on the course it will take at the Rome meetings, and whether or not there is a need to change the course already adopted for these negotiations. This will be decided at the meeting following discussions, dialogue, and a thorough review of all issues. [end recording]

'Ashrawi—All Israeli Settlements 'Illegitimate'

JN1107205292 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that the Palestinians are adhering to international legitimacy, and that they cannot participate in a process that lends legitimacy to the Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories.

'Ashrawi's remarks were made in an interview conducted by our correspondent for political affairs Kassab Samawi upon her arrival in Amman from a visit to the United States:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi, in progress] ...remains unchanged. We have informed the Americans of this—that we do not consider any type of settlements to be legitimate. All kinds of settlement activity are illegitimate, and any funds provided to support this activity would mean that the United States abolished the possibility of playing a constructive and neutral role in the peace process. We cannot be party to a negotiating process that negates Palestinian legitimacy and conflicts with international legitimacy.

[Samawi] Rabin has put forward new ideas to consolidate negotiations with the Palestinian delegation. Does this call for amendments to the Palestinian, and generally the Arab, negotiating plan?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian plan is a strategic one based on Palestinian rights and on the internal Palestinian force. It is not based only on external changes. We are ready to continue presenting our plans and strategies and to speed up the process. This, however, does not mean that we have changed our basic and essential positions. We always insist that we need a fast negotiating process that introduces tangible changes on the ground. For the past eight months, Israel has been trying to create a painful reality conflicting with the requirements, objectives, and principles of the peace process. The new Israeli Government, therefore, should prove that it has good intentions and embark on practical steps to support the negotiating process. [end recording]

'Ashrawi—'No Radical Changes' in Talks Strategy

JN1207155692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1505 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 12 July; carried within the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Welcome back, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] Thank you.

[Mu'addi] The inevitable question is: Did you have any contact with the police upon your return from Amman?

['Ashrawi] There were no contacts. But I waited for three hours, after which I was subpoenaed for police interrogation.

[Mu'addi] When will the police hold the interrogation?

['Ashrawi] After two days.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, let us talk about the peace process. You said in Amman yesterday that the next round of bilateral talks will be held in Rome in late August. Have the Palestinians received an invitation?

['Ashrawi] No invitations have been extended so far. The arrangements have been delayed until after the formation of the new Israeli government. We are awaiting

invitations in accordance with the desire of all parties. But it would seem, or rather it is likely, that the next round will be held in August, perhaps in early rather than late August, but this is not clear so far.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, what will the Palestinian side propose during the next round of talks?

[Ashrawi] There have been no radical changes in the Palestinian strategy, which is based on Palestinian rights and considerations rather than on external changes.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinian Meeting in Cairo

NC1107150092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat opened the 15th meeting of the Palestinian Higher Council for Education, Culture, and Science at the Shepherd Hotel in Cairo today. Education Minister Dr. Husayn Baha'al-Din, representing President Husni Mubarak, attended the opening session, along with Arab ambassadors and members of the council. [passage omitted]

After asking the participants to observe a one-minute moment of remembrance for the souls of Palestinian martyrs, the Palestinian president addressed the meeting. He praised Egypt's and Mubarak's support for the Palestinian cause and asked Dr. Baha'al-Din to convey his gratitude and that of the Palestinian people to the president for allowing the meeting to be held in Egypt, saying: This is not the first time, nor will it be the last time the Palestinian Higher Council for Education, Culture, and Science meets in Cairo. He added: We will continue our march until we pray together in Jerusalem.

'Arafat described the council as a source of pride for the Palestinian revolution, declaring: The revolution is not about bullets or rifles; it is about cultural, educational, and scientific creativity represented by this council. 'Arafat proposed that a Jerusalem University be established as a distinguished Arab center of learning, suggesting that an Arab council oversee the university. He praised the role of the Palestinian universities in the revolution.

'Arafat described educational ties between the PLO and the formerly Soviet, Asian, Islamic republics as good. He noted that other Islamic countries must cooperate with these republics to compensate for their long lack of cultural, educational, and scientific ties with the rest of the Muslim world.

Noting the international changes following the Gulf war and the new world order, the Palestinian president called on Arab countries to show solidarity to prevent the new world order from being established at their expense.

'Arafat said that the image of Israeli Prime Minister-Designate Yitzhaq Rabin is no different from that of outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He pointed out that it was Rabin who annexed Jerusalem,

took part in annexing the Golan, broke the bones of Palestinian children, and built the first settlements. 'Arafat observed that Rabin's remarks following the elections have been different from his pre-election statements.

Speaking of Palestinian losses from Israeli repression in the occupied territories, 'Arafat said 123,000 Palestinians are being held in Israeli jails and detention camps, 98,000 have been wounded, 6,600 have become disabled, and 8,000 women have suffered miscarriages because of tear gas fired by the Israeli forces. He said that tests carried out by European laboratories have demonstrated that these were "chemical bombs." 'Arafat accused Israel of destroying large tracts of agricultural land in the occupied territories, noting that much of this land contained olive trees dating back to Roman times.

'Arafat declared that Israel has no appreciation of civilization or history, noting, however: We will welcome them if they become part of this region. 'Arafat asserted at the end of his speech that the Palestinians will not sign any agreement with the Israelis without the approval of the Palestinian legislative councils. [passage omitted]

This meeting of the Palestinian Higher Council for Education, Culture, and Science is being held under the slogan "Toward a Palestinian Arab Educational Curriculum." It is assessing the council's activities since its establishment; the conditions of Palestinian students in the occupied territories and abroad; and the progress of Palestinian educational, scientific, and cultural activities.

The opening session was also attended by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani and several other Palestinian figures.

'Arafat To Arrive in Jordan, Meet King Husayn

JN1207110492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
12 Jul 92 pp 1, 20

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman within 48 hours on an official visit of several days to Jordan.

Palestinian sources said that His Majesty King Husayn will meet with the Palestinian president to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the four-way meeting of the foreign ministers [of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO] scheduled to be held in Damascus on 21 July, as well as bilateral preparations for the Rome negotiations.

In another development, a high-ranking Palestinian official told AL-DUSTUR that a specialized legal committee has been set up to draft the first Palestinian election law as part of preparations to hold legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the formation of the legislative committee for interim period of self-rule. The official indicated that the committee is studying several proposals in this regard.

The official, who requested anonymity, said that the committee comprises Dr. Nabil Qassis, Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Ghassan al-Khatib. They will be assisted by Dr. Shihadah al-Khatib, an international law expert, and others.

The official added: We are hoping that the Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be held before November. He said that the U.S. Administration would also like the elections to be held before the U.S. presidential elections. He added that the U.S. Administration would also like the Palestinians and Israelis to agree on the interim period before the U.S. elections.

The Palestinian official attributed this U.S. desire to the possibility that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the peace negotiations could be used as an election card by President George Bush against his rivals.

The official revealed an Israeli decision to appoint Afram Sinha [name as published] as chief of the Israeli negotiating teams with the Jordanian and Palestinian teams as a substitute for Ilyaqim Rubinstein. He said that a number of Palestinian officials know Sinha well and had met with him during the dialogues that were held years ago in Finland, the Netherlands, and Jerusalem.

He said the point of reference is one of the major points of disagreement with the Israeli side. He said that the Palestinian side believes that the point of reference for self-rule should be the Palestinian people or the United Nations, while Israel believes that military rule should be the point of reference.

Commentary Views Israeli Negotiating Strategy

*LD1207005492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker returned and two days ago while he was attending the Helsinki European security conference he affirmed that the United States welcomed the statement of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister-designate, in which he called for intensive negotiations with the Palestinians in order to reach an agreement concerning home rule in the occupied areas within months. Baker considered these statements as positive and constructive and said Washington is awaiting the formation of the new Israeli Government in order to resume negotiations and push the peace process forward.

The Arab sides taking part in the peace process are also awaiting the proposals of the new Israeli Government at the negotiating table in the upcoming round. Several Arab capitals have been witnessing contacts and consultations between the Arab sides taking part in the peace process in an endeavor to coordinate attitudes prior to the next negotiations. In the middle of awaiting and

getting ready for the next stage, one must affirm a number of basic issues connected with the coming negotiations.

First, to negotiate with the new Israeli Government headed by the Labor Party means to stand face to face with a negotiating strategy which is basically different from that of the Likud government despite the points of agreement between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Second, the flexibility which the Labor Party is showing toward some of the issues raised in the agenda cannot conceal the truth of contradiction between what they are raising concerning basic issues connected with the basis of the peace process and the international resolutions that affect the conflict. Such as their adherence to building security settlements, the rejection of any concessions with regard to Jerusalem, the lack of clarity in Rabin's stand toward linking the transitional period in the occupied areas and the nature of the final solution, and the attempt to divide the solutions in a way that the negotiations with the Palestinian side receive precedence over achieving any success in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Third, Rabin said he expected the United States to deal with the two sides in the same way. In the present peace process the criterion should be the UN Security Council resolutions on one hand and the principles contained in the invitation letters to the Madrid conference which were based on those resolutions on the other hand. [passage omitted]

Fourth, any international pressures during the negotiations cannot overlook the truth that the Arab-Palestinian side is the side which adheres to international legitimacy and its resolutions. Therefore, if the aim is to realise some progress, such pressures should be directed toward changing the conditions which conflict with international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Premature Granting of Loan Guarantees Questioned

*LD1307101392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, it seems to be clear that the success of the Labor Party in the Israeli elections represented that beginning which the U.S. Administration has been awaiting to open a new page in relations with Israel. In the period during which the Likud ruled, U.S.-Israeli relations became tense. And it was no secret that the U.S. President could not deal with Shamir, and that the U.S. Administration wanted a political change in Israel. A concealed battle erupted between the two sides, while the U.S. Administration froze the Israeli request to obtain loan guarantees and insisted on implementing certain conditions that the Israelis had rejected in the negotiation process.

The Israeli Government lent assistance to its supporters in the United States by staging a campaign against President Bush, accusing him of racism and anti-Semitism. It helped in the leaking of the news and rumors about his implication in the Irangate scandal. In short, relations between the two sides were characterized by apparent tepidity and by accusations of deliberate and intended animosity, which affected the substance of the relations.

No sooner had Shamir fallen and Rabin risen than announcements from the two sides began to develop in the direction of friendliness and adjusting the balance of relations. Since the day of announcing his election success, Rabin began the wooing process, as he declared in his first speech the value and importance of the aid that the United States had granted Israel over the last decades, emphasizing that Israel would not have been able to achieve progress except through this military and economic aid.

The U.S. response came very quickly, with the optimistic announcements on the future of the negotiation process and the march of peace in the region. These continued to develop until yesterday's announcement by the U.S. ambassador in Israel to confirm that the time seems to be suitable for Israel to obtain the bank guarantees that were frozen a while ago.

Of course, we do understand the extent of the strategic relationship that ties the United States to Israel. Although many people have offered analyses that the strategic relationship between the two sides has started to lose its effectiveness during the era of the new international order, and that Israel is no longer of the same importance for the United States, we again reiterate the warning that the relationship between the two sides is strategic, because it is fundamentally organic and indivisible.

We also understand that the U.S. Administration is now in dire need of improving its relations with Israel, because President Bush needs every U.S. electoral vote in the upcoming elections since, it seems, his re-election to a new presidential term is not certain.

Based on these two premises, we believe that the U.S. ambassador's statement in Israel now expresses a policy whose practical translation we will be witnessing very soon through Israel really obtaining the bank guarantees.

All the above makes us ask: Is this the proper time for the U.S. Administration to offer the loan guarantees to Israel, and has the truth of Rabin's real intentions toward the negotiating process been revealed?

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Ministers Conclude Meeting

BK1007115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The 11th session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers was concluded in Colombo yesterday under the chairmanship of the minister of foreign affairs, Harold Herath. The SAARC foreign ministers took several decisions touching the promotion of regional trade. The council directed the intergovernment group on economic cooperation which will meet in Kathmandu shortly to proceed expeditiously to draft an agreement on SAARC preferential trading agreement. This draft will be submitted at the next meeting of the committee on economic cooperation to be held in New Delhi later this year. It will enable the Dhaka summit to take necessary action to give effect to the proposals. Member states were also requested to exchange information on export items which could eventually be listed under trade preferences.

Briefing newsmen in Colombo, the foreign secretary Bernard Tilakaratna, said that the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers also decided to explore the enormous potential of the South Asian Development Fund. The panel of experts on the fund chaired by the foreign minister of Bhutan has been asked to undertake a feasibility study to examine the possibility of mobilizing global surpluses for the development of South Asia.

The work of the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation was also reviewed. The commission has up to now held two meetings in Colombo and New Delhi and is meeting in Dhaka at the moment. Two further meetings are scheduled to be held in Islamabad and Colombo respectively and the commission's final report will be submitted to the Dhaka summit through the chairman of SAARC. It was also agreed that Sri Lanka will host a ministerial conference on children in South Asia from 16-18 September this year and that a preparatory meeting for this purpose would be held in Colombo later this month. (The ministers) will also assist this conference in accordance with past practice.

Pakistan's Kanjoo on Meeting With India's Faleiro

BK1007124692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, returned to Islamabad this afternoon from Colombo after leading Pakistan's delegation at the 11th session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, he said that during his meeting with the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in Colombo they agreed on the need for continuing bilateral dialogue at all levels to resolve all

outstanding bilateral issues including Kashmir and the nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He said they also agreed for early convening of foreign secretary-level talks between the two countries. He told newsmen their talks covered bilateral, regional, and global issues including the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Jakarta. The NAM summit will be held in the first week of September.

About the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting in Colombo, he said that it took decisions for consolidating mutually beneficial contact and cooperation in a number of fields. It also made a comprehensive review of the activities of the organization since sixth SAARC summit in Colombo last year. The minister of state said the council took important decisions on the adoption of common position by SAARC member states on global issues and for promoting institutionalized cooperation between SAARC and other regional organizations, UN agencies and other international bodies as well as friendly countries to expedite the realization of goals set by SAARC in the socioeconomic fields.

Talks on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue To Continue

*BK1007144492 Islamabad PTY Television Network
in English 1400 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] Pakistan and India have agreed to continue bilateral dialogue at all levels for resolving all outstanding bilateral issues including the question of Jammu and

Kashmir and nuclear nonproliferation. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in Islamabad today on his return from Colombo after attending the 11th session of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting. The two countries agreed on the early convening of foreign secretaries-level talks. Mr. Kanjoo said he had wide-ranging talks in Colombo with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, on different subjects including the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka and NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Indonesia. Mr. Kanjoo said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, will lead Pakistan's delegation at the NAM summit which will be held in Jakarta from the 1st to the 6th of September.

At the SAARC ministerial meeting, Mr. Kanjoo reiterated Pakistan's sincere commitment to the realization of objectives and goals defined by SAARC meetings. He said Pakistan emphasized the need to ensure that the annual SAARC summit conference is held regularly and last-minute postponement is avoided. The session was told that Pakistan will host a meeting of the South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation and the commission on environment. The minister said the council took important decisions on the adoption of common position by SAARC member states on global issues and for promoting institutionalized cooperation between SAARC and other regional organizations, UN agencies, and other international bodies.

Algeria

Trial of FIS Leaders Resumes

*LD1207121892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] The trial of the leaders of the defunct Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] resumed today in a military court in Blida at exactly 1124, but in the absence of the defendants.

The president of the court asked the military prosecutor to explain. The military prosecutor replied that those concerned have been officially notified, and that this has been duly recorded, but that they have not appeared. Although the military prosecution regrets this absence, it requests that the president of the court apply the law to the fullest extent. It was also noted that the defense lawyers were absent, as well.

The president of the court then announced an adjournment for consultation and to adopt any necessary measures.

Our correspondent at the scene says that the defense refuses to attend because the military prosecution has refused permission for eight Moroccan lawyers to attend. The reason for this refusal was that according to international agreements, foreign lawyers need a permit from the justice ministry in their own countries and from the justice ministry in the host country.

We have just heard that the session resumed after consultations. The president of the court said that, after considering the prosecutor's request and because there is no legal or objective ground for the absence of the defendants, the court has decided to continue the trial according to legal procedures and according to Article 141 of the Military Penal Code and Article 294 of the Penal Proceedings Law.

The court warned the defendants to attend and appear before the court. If they refuse, they should notify the court. The court will then begin the trial, and the verdict it hands down will be deemed to have been delivered in the presence of the defendants.

Court Rejects Plea; Trial Continues

*LD1207144192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on previously covered material] The latest news is that after the accused was warned and told that they must obey the court, they indicated that they would agree to attend on condition that the foreign press and representatives of international organizations also be allowed to be present.

The prosecution replied that the demands of the accused are out of order. Accordingly, the president of the court decided to continue the hearings, which will be resumed at 1430 this afternoon. He considered the absence of the accused a maneuver on their part. [passage omitted]

Defense Offers Explanation

*LD1207155492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Excerpts] Proceedings at the trial of the seven Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders resumed at 1430 today in the Military Court in Blida in the absence of the defendants and the defense counsel. Hohamed Chelouch reports:

In the absence of the defendants and their defense lawyers, the trial resumed at the scheduled time, 1430.

The proceedings began by calling the 34 witnesses, led by Mouloud Hamrouch and Mohamedi, in addition to other personalities, such as Merrani, Karrar, Ben Azzouz, Zebda, Sahnouni and also Abdelkader Hachani, who is detained in Serkadji Prison. Among today's witnesses is Frenchman Didier Roger, who is under arrest. After the presence of the witnesses was confirmed, they were sent to an adjoining room. [passage omitted on review of charges]

It is noteworthy that the defense counsel held a news conference this afternoon at the Palace Hotel in Blida, during which the counsel explained the reasoning behind its refusing to attend the resumption of the trial. Principle among the reasons are a lack of responsiveness to the demands of the defense council, which include the presence at the trial of foreign journalists and representatives of international organizations, as well as a demand for the presence of eight Moroccan lawyers, who attended the news conference.

Trial Adjourns

*LD1207162692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] Today's third session of the trial of Islamic Salvation Front leaders, being held in the Blida Military Court, was adjourned at 1620 after the reading of the reference order by the investigating magistrate. The president of the court ordered the court clerk to inform the defendants of the proceedings of this session and to record the minutes, which will be submitted upon resumption of the trial. [passage omitted]

Further on Trial

*LD1307073592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] [Unidentified news anchor] Proceedings at the trial of the leaders of the defunct Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will resume this morning at the military court in Blida. The second round of the trial began yesterday. The first round was suspended at its beginning on 27 June when the defense lawyers withdrew.

This defense strategy is based on the tactic of boycotting the proceedings, but the proceedings continued until late last night in the absence of lawyers and defendants. Here

is the radio correspondent Mohamed Chelouch, who followed the proceedings, to tell us about what happened in a direct conversation we have with him from the studio. Mohamed, it appears that hearing the witnesses' testimony took a long time.

[Chelouch] Yes Saleha, hearing the witnesses took about seven hours. The last witness was Mouloud Hamrouche, the former prime minister, whose statement attracted attention.

The questions directed toward Mouloud Hamrouche by the president of the court concentrated on the negotiations that were then taking place between the government and the FIS leadership during the period of the political strike. Mouloud Hamrouche tried to explain from his point of view that the term negotiations was inaccurate, and that the correct word should have been meetings, and that the issue concerned the meetings of 29 and 31 May, naturally of last year. Those two meetings were at the request of the FIS leaders—according to Mouloud Hamrouche—who were asking for a meeting with the then president of the republic. They were told to meet with the prime minister.

What attracts attention is the fact that Mouloud Hamrouche hinted from the very beginning of his statement that the government he was leading was not directly responsible for the violent incidents that took place in June 1991. However, the president of the court managed to make him openly declare that he, as prime minister, was not politically or morally the author of the decision to evacuate the public squares by force—the decision which was made in the evening of 3 June 1991 and which was followed up by an intervention by force against the supporters of the FIS who were staging a sit-in at Martyrs Square.

Mouloud Hamrouche pointed out that he opposed the view that there should be a severe response to deal with the situation. Mouloud Hamrouche said: I rejected severity which leads to violence, and therefore I tendered my resignation on 2 June 1991. Mouloud Hamrouche's hints made the military prosecutor ask him: Why do you not categorically state that the Presidency decided to clear the square and that your government was asked to carry out the decision? The question is clear: Who made the decision to clear the squares by force? In his questions to the former prime minister, the president of the court concluded: You stated that you were against violence, therefore you were not the person who made the decision to clear the squares by force. Hamrouche replied: Yes, politically and morally.

[News anchor] Mohamed, were there any other statements that attracted your attention?

[Chelouch] Yes many. For example, Mohamed Salah Mohammedi, the interior minister in the Hamrouche government, reaffirmed that he did not participate in the meeting in which it was decided to clear the public squares where the FIS supporters were staging a sit-in, despite the fact that it was he who issued the decision in

his capacity as interior minister. He pointed out that the government preferred to deal with the events with flexibility and not in an administrative way. He spoke about a meeting that was going to be arranged on the eve of the decision in the presence of Abbasi Medani and Abdelhamid Mehri on 2 June, but the meeting did not take place. On 3 June a meeting took place between Belkhadem and Abbasi.

[News anchor] Who used to mediate at these meetings?

[Chelouch] Regarding the mediation there is a someone who aroused attention in a lighthearted way; I refer to Mr. Bouezza Nesim. He was presented as being the vice chairman of a charity society who mediated during the meetings which used to be arranged with Abbasi Medani. The strange thing about this man is that he does not understand Arabic. The president of the court asked him what took place at the meetings of 29 and 31 May 1991, and he replied: The negotiators were speaking in classical Arabic and I do not understand Arabic. He only understood when the two sides embraced each other, when they greeted each other.

Another mediator, Imam Belkheir Keddour, mediated at a meeting between Abbasi and Sid Ahmed Ghazali on 7 June 1991—the meeting at which it was agreed to stop the strike. The mediator stated that, in return for stopping the strike, the prime minister promised to allow the dismissed workers to return to work and not to dissolve the FIS or to arrest its leaders. This statement attracted attention. But the military prosecutor reminded the witness that his statement before the investigating magistrate did not refer to promise, and that Ghazali said: I do not want to begin my political life with the dissolution of the FIS or the arrest of its leaders. The witness replied that Ghazali said: I did not come to dissolve the FIS nor to arrest its leaders.

Other witnesses also made many statements worthy of attention. One was Abdelkader Hachani, who was resolute in what he said. Hachani's statement lasted more than 40 minutes. In his statement he said he supported the unlimited political strike decision because he regarded the strike as legitimate, because the former regime, led by Chadli Bendjedid, did not honor its promises. He described the electoral laws that were enacted by the Hamrouche government as unjust, and it was this that made the consultative council declare the strike.

With regard to the issue of (?instruction) No. 22, on which the military prosecution concentrated—and which it considers the most dangerous phases of the conspiracy against state authority, and which was signed, according to the military prosecution, by Abbasi Medani and Ali Belhadj—Hachani said that it was only a plan and was not put into action.

Asked about Abbasi Medani's role in the administration of the affairs of the FIS and in unilaterally deciding to stage the strike, Hachani replied that it was impossible for Abbasi Medani alone to make that decision or any

other decision without the approval of the Consultative Council. However, the statements by (?Meranni) and (?Kerrar) concerning the unlimited strike decision hinted that the idea came from Abbasi Medani, who could have imposed it on the Consultative Council. According to (?Merrani), the council was summoned to meet, that is, the council summoned 17 members only. He also pointed out that the strike was set for three days only.

Military Court Not To Handle Boudiaf Case

*LD1007164192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] The investigation of the assassination of Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf being referred to a military court is not in the offing.

This was stated by the chairman of the military judiciary at the Defense Ministry, who sent a message to the public prosecutor of the Annaba Judicial Council in which he informed him of the decision. He sent the same message to the national committee entrusted with investigating the assassination of Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf and uncovering the culprits and masterminds of the operation.

The chairman of the military judiciary at the Defense Ministry explained that it would be impossible, under any circumstances, to have the military judiciary, whatever the justification, handle the investigation into the circumstances of the assassination of Chairman Boudiaf.

Currently the dossier is in the possession of the Annaba public prosecutor's office.

The message added that the decision was inspired by commitment to the proper progress of justice.

The public prosecutor of the Annaba Judicial Council stated at a news conference two days ago that the investigation into the assassination of Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf could be referred to the military courts because the civil courts are not qualified to handle it because the accused assassin was a member of the military and the actions attributed to him were committed while he was on duty.

The command of the National Gendarmerie, which addressed the message to the appropriated authorities, emphasized that all the information in the possession of the Defense Ministry and National Gendarmerie will be placed at the disposal of the investigation and at the disposal of the national investigation committee, as well as the judicial body entrusted with the matter.

Annaba Magistrate on Case

*LD1207205892 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] In the case of the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf, the investigating magistrate for the

Annaba Court, who has finished reviewing the results of the initial investigation into the assassination, announced today that the case does not lie within his jurisdiction. This was announced by the public prosecutor, Tilghramt, at a news conference.

Concerning a question about the statement of the military court administrator, who excluded any possibility of transferring the case to a military court, Mr. Tilghramt made no comment.

On the same subject, and concerning a possible legal battle over the problem of competence, the public prosecutor mentioned that the decision remains in the hands of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Tilghramt did not give any information about the investigation concerning possible accomplices.

The investigating magistrate for the competent Annaba court sent Lembarek Boumaarafi to prison today. He is accused of assassinating the late President Mohamed Boudiaf.

'Legal Tangle' on Jurisdiction

*LD1307092992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] The national investigation committee charged with directing publicity on the circumstances and implications of the assassination of the late Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf is currently in Annaba. Meanwhile, the investigation into the assassination of Chairman Boudiaf still raises a legal tangle with regard to the jurisdiction of the court competent to pass judgment in this case.

The public prosecutor of the Annaba Judicial Council stated to national radio late last week that the Judicial Council was not qualified to try Lambarek Boumaraf, since he is a member of the military, in accordance with Article 25 of the Military Penal Code. This statement was dismissed by the head of the military judiciary at the Ministry of National Defense, who was of the opinion that the military judiciary has no jurisdiction to pass judgment in the case.

Our correspondent in Annaba Abdelrehmane Fekhar asked the public prosecutor of the Annaba Judicial Council about this tangle. He replied at the beginning by saying: I deem it my duty to clarify some aspects of the recent procedural development in the case of the homicide of the late Mohamed Boudiaf. The Public Prosecutor's Office has stated that the case is not within its jurisdiction for objective reasons derived from the spirit and letter of the laws of the Republic. Public Prosecutor's Office expected the competent military judicial authorities to take the case, but the categorical and unconditional rejection by the latter has led to a paralysis in procedures, which has nearly halted the search for the truth awaited by society.

To escape this impasse, to serve the interest of society, and as a gesture of respect for Article 130 of the Constitution, which stipulates that judicial authority protects society and freedoms, the Public Prosecutor's Office has submitted the question to the judicial investigation body, which quickly confirmed that it has no jurisdiction as per an order issued today. The confirmation of non-jurisdiction by the investigating body was expected in view of the ordinary principles of jurisdiction defined by law, which are regarded as part of the general procedure and on which no unilateral agreement can be reached with regard to their violation nor their imposition.

As for the letter that the media said was sent by the military judiciary to the Public Prosecutor's Office, I would like to reaffirm to you that I have not officially received this letter, and even if we suppose that I have received it, this letter has no influence on the freedom of decisionmaking by the Public Prosecutor. [passage omitted]

Explosion Damages Palace of Justice in Batna

LD1207093792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] There was an explosion today at the Palace of Justice in Batna. Here are details from the radio correspondent on the scene:

At about 0500 this morning, a conventional explosive device exploded at the Palace of Justice in the town of Batna. It caused slight damage—some windows were broken. According to the prosecutor general of the Judicial Council of Batna, who confirmed the news, the explosion would have caused a fire inside the archive hall had it not been for the intervention of security guards in the building. The explosion is now being investigated by security organizations to determine its circumstances and who was responsible.

Gendarmes Attacked by Armed Gang in Maqtaa Lazrak

LD1007233192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] A statement issued by the National Gendarmerie states that four armed persons launched an attack at 1800 today against two cars belonging to the National Gendarmerie patrol unit in the Maqtaa Lazrak region, 1 km from Hammam Melouane, Blida Wilaya.

The statement adds that the attackers, who possessed automatic pistols, a shotgun, and conventional pistols attacked the second patrol car. One of the attackers was killed. No casualties were reported among the members of the National Gendarmerie.

The statement indicates that the search is continuing for the three persons from the group who fled toward the Chrea Forest. One assault weapon, one rifle, and ammunition were confiscated by the National Gendarmerie.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar'

NC1107092892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

Al-Shar' arrived at al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria this morning.

Delivers al-Asad Message

JN1107151892 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Jul (SANA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received in Alexandria Saturday morning Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to him.

The meeting was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Syrian Ambassador to Egypt 'Isa Darwish.

Al-Shar' arrived in Alexandria this morning and left this afternoon. He was received and seen off by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

Upon his departure al-Shar' said while answering reporters' questions that the message he conveyed from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is within the framework of continuous consultation and exchange of views between the two presidents and two sisterly countries, and deals with the latest developments in the region and a number of issues of joint interest.

Answering a question on whether Syria sees that the peace chances in the region have become in a better atmosphere following the Israeli elections, al-Shar' replied that this depends on the positions the new Israeli Government will take toward the peace process.

He added that Syria insists on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 on all fronts in order to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region that is based on full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and securing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

'Fruitful Cooperation' Noted

NC1107151392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1429 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced that the foreign

ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories will meet in Doha, Qatar, on 9 and 10 September to implement the provisions of the declaration.

Al-Shar', speaking to reporters after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak at noon today, was asked about the Syrian view of the recent changes in Israel following its parliamentary elections and the current prospects for peace. He said that the chances for peace depend on the stands adopted by the new Israeli government. He asserted that Syria adheres to its well-known position on the peace process, based on implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region. Such a peace, he added, must include total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and guarantee the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Faruq al-Shar's visit came in the context of the continuing fruitful cooperation and consultation between the two fraternal countries, noting that Egyptian-Syrian ties are being enhanced in various spheres. He referred to the meeting between their prime ministers at the Egyptian-Syrian higher joint committee in Damascus last week, which sought to promote trade exchanges and economic cooperation.

On Syria's role in the normalization of Egyptian-Iranian relations, 'Amr Musa said that Syria plays a major role in the region and that its political role is constantly growing. He said that relations between Egypt and Iran are on the way to being normalized.

Al-Shar' Departs 11 Jul

NC1107104592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Alexandria this afternoon after a short visit to Egypt.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa saw him off at al-Nuzhah Airport.

'Arafat Arrives; To Meet Mubarak, Attend Meeting

NC1107063692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo early this morning on a visit to Egypt lasting several hours, during which he will discuss the coming stage of the Middle East peace march with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat will also take part in meetings of the 15th session of the Palestinian Higher Education, Cultural, and Scientific Council in Cairo later today.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat

NC1207080492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0654 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat this morning at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also attended the meeting.

Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal; 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th; PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO's official spokesman in Tunis; and Zuhi al-Qidrah, Fatah's representative in Cairo, attended the meeting on the Palestinian side.

Peace Process 'Focus' of Talks

NC1207145592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 12 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that President Husni Mubarak's talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today focused on coordinating the Arab stand on the peace negotiations, and the current status and future prospects for the negotiations following the formation of the new Israeli Government.

Al-Baz told reporters that although it is still too early to assess the specifics of the new Israeli government's position, the indications point to the need for us to enhance inter-Arab coordination. He added: It was in this context that President Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday. Al-Shar' brought a message from President Hafiz al-Asad that dealt with the coordination of our positions. Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat today was designed to enhance Arab coordination so that we will be able to develop a unified stand and submit peace initiatives that will constitute a new, dynamic challenge for Israel.

Dr. al-Baz continued: We must also take into account that the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the negotiations will meet in Damascus during the last week of July in order to enhance coordination. He said: We hope that this meeting will give an immediate impetus to the peace talks so that the next few months are not wasted waiting for the U.S. presidential election or giving the Israeli Government time to settle in. Al-Baz declared: It is in our interest to revive the peace process promptly and resume negotiations as soon as possible. We must not wait; we must use the next few weeks to coordinate the stands of the various Arab parties and contact Israel in order to find some common ground that will allow us to resume negotiations with the new Israeli government.

Dr. al-Baz said that it is well-known that Egypt's policy rests on the principle of tangible progress on all Arab fronts, declaring: We believe it is crucial to make real progress in the negotiations over the Golan Heights while at the same time making progress on the Palestinian issue and on the issues under discussion between Jordan and Israel.

He added: As for Lebanon, there is no need for negotiations. Israel must implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon. Dr. al-Baz urged Israel to show goodwill toward the Arabs by promptly implementing Resolution 425 and withdrawing from south Lebanon. This should not be linked to the Syrian-Lebanese relationship because this relationship concerns those two countries alone and does not affect Israeli security. He asserted that any delay in withdrawal from south Lebanon may perpetuate the current vicious circle, which is designed to justify the Israeli military presence in the south and the military and paramilitary acts that Israel carries out against the civilians in the area. He said: All of this impedes progress toward consolidating the authority of the Lebanese state and enhancing the Lebanese Army's role and control over all Lebanese territory.

Dr. al-Baz denied that a meeting between Mubarak and new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is being planned. He explained that the purpose of Egypt's current meetings with other Arab states is to coordinate Arab stands before resuming negotiations with Israel. Dr. al-Baz said: We believe we must resume negotiations as soon as possible. He remarked that the Arabs will be ready to resume talks with the Israelis at the beginning of September, without regard to the U.S. presidential election.

Dr. al-Baz said there is no problem concerning the Middle East multilateral talks and that they can be resumed at any time, either at the same time as the bilateral talks or shortly after they are held.

Al-Baz concluded his remarks to reporters by declaring that he believes the current prospects for success in the Middle East peace process are favorable.

Editorial Notes Formation of Israeli Cabinet

NC1207081892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 12 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Rabin's Government and the Challenges of Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Israeli Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin is expected to announce the formation of his new government today or tomorrow. Rabin has reached an agreement with other parties to ensure that the government will have a relatively stable parliamentary majority of 62 seats, representing the Labor, Meretz, and Shas Parties. Two other

parties, having five seats between them, may also come to Rabin's support in times of crisis.

Rabin's new government, the paper adds, will be a relatively stable government because of the wide-range of parties it represents. The government includes elements from the Zionist center, the Zionist left, and a religious party. Its composition is reminiscent of Israeli governments during the fifties and sixties, including up to the October 1973 war, with the Labor Party replacing Mapai [Israel Workers Party] and Shas [Sephardi Torah Guardians] replacing the National Religious Party. The change in the circumstances, challenges, and coalitions may actually punctuate rather than obliterate the elements of (?weakness) within Rabin's government. Meretz and Shas may find it difficult to maintain the spirit of cooperation, and the Labor Party may find it difficult to preserve harmony among its various wings.

Rabin's government, AL-JUMHURIYAH says, may have elements of weakness, but its attitude regarding the challenges of peace is what will count. Foremost of these challenges is its policy regarding settlements and the settlers. Urgent action is needed to move the peace process along. Deeds, not words, are required to get the process going again.

Mubarak Addresses Troops Bound for Sarajevo

NC1207114992 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0908 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Egyptian troops assigned to peacekeeping force in Sarajevo during an Air Defense College graduation ceremony in Alexandria—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers, officers, and soldiers of the force assigned peacekeeping duties in Sarajevo: The duty of armed forces—I am speaking about armed forces in general—is to defend a nation. The Armed Forces act as this nation's shield and bastion of safety. The Armed Forces do not allow any aggression to take place against the soil of this country.

Our Egyptian Armed Forces made themselves proud during the glorious October war. Foes and friends alike testified to their efficiency. Following the October war, our Armed Forces performance became part of the curricula of military and nonmilitary schools worldwide. We are proud of this. Every member of our Armed Forces should be proud of this too.

The Egyptian Armed Forces also participated in the liberation of Kuwait, where their performance earned great respect. You members of the Armed Forces have the right to be proud. We are proud of you. Your task this time round is to help preserve peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Egypt has been invited to participate in the peacekeeping forces there because of the reputation our Armed Forces have earned.

I wish you success with all my heart. You are a symbol of Egypt wherever you go. I advise you to remember always that you are Egyptian troops and as such remain proud of your legacy and of your country. I wish you success. May peace and God's mercy be on you.

Mubarak Given Syrian, Saudi Messages

NC1107192492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a detailed report from Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on the work of the joint higher Egyptian-Syrian committee, which met in Damascus last week. Dr. Sidqi conveyed a message to Mubarak from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with a number of Arab issues of mutual interest. Dr. Sidqi's report, presented during an audience with Mubarak today, included the outcome and recommendations of the joint Egyptian-Syrian committee.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif conveyed a message from Saudi King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with a number of international and Arab issues. During his audience with the president today, the minister briefed Mubarak on the outcome of the ministerial committee meetings of the Islamic information ministers conference, held recently in Jeddah.

Weapons Seized in Upper Egypt, Suspects Arrested

NC1107074292 Cairo MENA in English 0640 GMT
11 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 11 July (MENA)—Police on Thursday seized caches of weapons and explosives buried underground in the upper Egypt governorates of Suhaj and Qina as the police noose around the terrorists and extremists in Upper Egypt tightens, reported AKHBAR AL-YAWM in its top billing and leading front-page story.

The newspaper's banner announced that in the "Government's decisive confrontation of terrorism", campaigns to arrest terrorists in Upper Egypt are continuing and the police now have the upper hand in the situation.

The Government's plan aims at wiping out terrorism in Upper Egypt and discovering the sources financing the terrorists and supplying them with weapons, the paper said.

The newspaper quoted Major General 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Nahas, first assistant to the minister of interior, said the police were in control of the situation and that there were permanent central security forces assigned to man the campaign in Upper Egypt and Cairo.

Al-Nahas said raids carried out last Thursday resulted in the capture of quantities of weapons buried underground in Suhaj and Qina governorates. The caches included charges of nitro-glycerine and glass containers filled with nails, benzine, and gunpowder, he said.

He revealed the arrest at dawn yesterday of the dangerous suspects in the Cairo district al-Matariyah and the seizing of weapons, rounds of ammunition, chain gears [as received], leaflets, and a huge sum of money, the paper added.

Arrests of Fundamentalists 4 Jul Reported

NC1107141392 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
5 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Qina, AL-AHRAM—The security authorities arrested 67 extremists in Qina yesterday for allegedly attacking wedding parties and beating the guests and musicians with chains, swords, and bottles.

Sixteen police teams from the Central Security Forces, backed by 20 armored vehicles, surrounded the terrorists' hideouts. They arrested 67 people and seized large quantities of arms and ammunition.

Al-Jihad Military Figure, 'Extremists' Arrested

NC1107165092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—State security police today arrested Jamal Haridi, one of the leaders of the al-Jihad Organization's military wing in Asyut, Upper Egypt. Haridi was found hiding in an apartment in al-Matariyah, Cairo along with several other wanted extremists.

The state security police went into action after receiving a tip that the wanted men, who had participated in recent incidents in Dayrut, had taken refuge in an apartment in al-Matariyah. The security forces arrested them without any injury to themselves or the suspects.

The Public Prosecutor's office had ordered the arrest of Jamal Haridi and the other suspects after determining that they had been involved in recent incidents in Upper Egypt.

Dayrut 'Exodus' Noted; Tension, Panic Prevail

NC1307092292 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
7 Jul 92 p 10

[Amin Radwan report from Cairo]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Tension prevails in the city of Dayrut as the security forces continue to chase members of the Islamic Group (al-Jihad). Reports from the area say that 40,000 troops and one paratroop division backed by helicopters are combing the area in search of extremists. The intensive security presence has caused panic among the inhabitants and all signs of life have

disappeared because of the curfew, the random raids, the attacks on houses, the detention of suspects' relatives as hostages to force them to give themselves up, and the use of live bullets against suspects, sometimes injuring innocent people. The exodus from Dayrut and its neighborhood is not limited to Christians but includes Muslims whose villages have turned into ghost towns. Eyewitnesses confirm that a state of anger prevails in Dayrut among both Christians and Muslims and that the heads of Christian families have publicly criticized the security policy, who might harm them in the future. [passage omitted]

While the security organs and the executive leaders in Asyut are trading accusations about the neglect that has led to the recent incidents, reports say that members of the ruling National Democratic Party and of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council have aided Islamic groups to gain their support in parliamentary elections. The reports added that these members have benefited from the departure of rich Christian merchants who offered to sell their possessions very cheaply before leaving the city.

The State Security Investigation Department has started to interrogate 'Izzat 'Abd-al-Hamid Ibrahim, one of the leaders of the Islamic Group's military wing. He stressed that the group's activities are not targeting all Christians but the armed groups among them. He claimed that Christians have stockpiled weapons in secret depots in churches and that an Islamic Group unit seized one of these caches in a lightning attack. He added that the modern weapons seized by the security organs were the same ones seized by this unit. He also claimed that armed Christians attacked his house in an act of revenge and drew the sign of the cross on the wall, and when he informed the security organs they did not do anything.

'Izzat Ibrahim denied knowledge of a plot to assassinate President Mubarak but did not deny the group's intention to assassinate Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Group has sent messages to Egyptians writers and intellectuals warning them of a Christian plot to declare a Christian state. It enclosed with the messages a pamphlet it attributed to Christians which began: "In the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit." The pamphlet said: "To all Christians in Egypt... To those yearning for the throne of Egypt and for the rule of Jesus... The candle of Islam will be extinguished with God's will... We have completed massing our ranks and we are close to eating Christ's bread at Egypt's throne." The pamphlet defamed President Mubarak and 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and threatened them with severe punishment.

Egyptian political sources have expressed doubts that such a pamphlet could be issued by Christians. They attributed it to either the Islamic Group itself or to foreign circles that want to incite sectarian sedition in Egypt. [passage omitted]

In addition to this, the security organs are fearful that the Islamic Group will exploit the increase in the price of gas and electricity to incite trouble in the country. The fears arose following security reports on the strike staged by taxi drivers in Cairo and Alexandria to demand an increase in fares in the wake of higher gas prices. The reports said that the strikers sent messages to the Islamic Group leaders asking them to show solidarity with them.

The security organs arrested 14 of the strike leaders and accused them of instigating hostile actions against the government and of contacting illegal terrorist groups to achieve this purpose.

It is recalled that President Mubarak ordered that fares should not be increased following the rise in the price of gas. But the strike, which was started by taxi drivers in Alexandria, introduced a new factor in the situation as a result of which the Interior Ministry asked for an increase in passengers fare and appealed to the governors to act quickly to confront the situation in their governorates. [passage omitted]

Assembly Committee Approves Anti-Terrorism Bill

NC1207205792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—The People's Assembly Constitutional and Legislative Committee today approved several articles of a special bill amending some provisions of the penal code, the criminal procedures law, the weapons and ammunition law, the juveniles law, the protection of values law, the state security courts law, and the secrecy of accounts law.

These amendments provide for the imprisonment of anyone who establishes, organizes, or runs a society, committee, organization, group, or band whose purpose is to obstruct the Constitution or laws, prevent any state establishment from exercising its duty, or violate the personal freedom of citizens.

The bill defines terrorism as being any use of force, violence, or threats to carry out a criminal plan, either individually or in collaboration with others, with the aim of disturbing public order or endangering the safety and security of society.

The bill provides for the death penalty or life imprisonment at hard labor if terrorism is used to achieve or implement the purposes of any society, committee, organization, group, or band.

The committee will meet tomorrow to complete discussion of the remaining articles before approving the bill in its final form and submitting it to the full People's Assembly.

Mubarak To Unveil New 'Framework' 22 July*NC1107044992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2044 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Husni Mubarak will announce on 22 July the start of a new stage of national action in Egypt and will unveil a new intellectual framework [itar fikri] to cope with world changes.

The 11 July issue of the paper notes that in a speech he will deliver at the conclusion of the National Democratic Party [NDP] congress, President Mubarak will discuss Egypt's domestic and foreign issues so as to achieve the Egyptian people's aspirations through the economic reform program, which is making steady progress. [sentence as received]

NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali told the paper that the party congress will renominate President Mubarak as party leader in its first session.

The paper notes that the NDP congress, which will open on 18 July and last for three days [as received], will discuss a number of major issues, including social justice, the democratic march and the current political situation, and steps to reform the economy. The congress will also discuss the question of culture and its link to comprehensive development, education, and scientific research. [passage omitted]

Musa Departs for UN for Debate on South Africa*NC1207083692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for New York this morning to attend the UN Security Council emergency meeting, scheduled to be held on Monday, to examine the situation in South Africa.

In a departure statement, Minister Musa said that the peace efforts in South Africa are being jeopardized because of the deterioration in the security situation and the decision to stop the talks aimed at establishing democracy.

Musa mentioned that the OAU summit in Dakar requested that the UN Security Council discuss the topic. The OAU held several consultations on the matter and decided to dispatch a number of foreign ministers, including the Egyptian, to New York to brief the UN Security Council on the situation.

Musa said that he will hold consultations with other African foreign ministers and the UN secretary general while in New York.

Musa said that he will address the UN Security Council on the situation in South Africa, adding that he may meet with some U.S. officials during the visit. This depends, he added, on their commitments during the election campaign.

The foreign minister said that his official visit to the United Kingdom, originally scheduled to begin tomorrow, has been postponed.

Musa discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, saying that the situation is very bad and that he will discuss the matter with UN officials.

Musa said that the Arab foreign ministers involved in the negotiations with Israel will meet in Damascus the last week of this month to coordinate their positions.

He mentioned yesterday's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', saying that it involved a discussion of recent regional developments and their impact on the peace process, as well as the way to further that process.

The foreign minister said that he will go from New York to Brussels to attend the meetings of the European-Egyptian cooperation council, due to be held there on 20 July.

Sudan**Reportage on Recent SPLA Attacks on Juba****Suffers 'Great Loss'***EA1207191092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] Khartoum, 12th July (SUNA)—The Armed Forces are completely controlling the situations in all the operations zones, confirmed Maj-Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, the official spokesman of the Armed Forces. He added that the rebellion forces which attempted to infiltrate to Juba town in the Equatoria State last Monday [6 July] were crushed. Uwaydah explained in a press statement that [Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA, leader John] Garang's forces have suffered a great loss in souls and equipment when [they] tried to infiltrate to Juba town in a hopeless attempt.

He said the prisoners detained after the attempt have revealed that Garang deceived them by claiming that a great part of Juba town is under his control following the first infiltration attempt which took place last month and this encouraged them to carry the second attempt.

Uwaydah pointed out that Juba town is living in peace and life in it is normal, besides the aviation movement hasn't stopped. It is to mention that Uwaydah Saturday [11 July] paid a visit to Juba where he got acquainted with the security conditions in the town.

Government Regains Control*AB1207184492 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Sudanese Government is claiming to have brought the situation in the southern town of Juba firmly under control. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels attacked the town in early June and again early last week. They claim to have inflicted heavy casualties on government troops. But the Sudanese president, General al-Bashir, dismissed the latest attack as the last kick of the dying. Now the authorities are stressing that the government has firmly regained the upper hand in the war in the south. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah was quoted by state radio this morning as saying that the SPLA's attack on Juba early last week was repulsed and life in the town had returned to normal. He said the government had captured SPLA troops who had told them that their leader, John Garang, had lied to them that taking Juba would be easy. Maj. Gen. Uwaydah said air transportation to and from Juba airport had not been halted and that the citizens in the town are going about their business as usual. He said he had been in the town on Friday [10 July]. Juba is a town of some 250,000 people, most of whom are displaced by the ongoing war from the countryside, and it depends almost entirely on relief aid which comes by air.

The SPLA said last week that it had killed 500 government soldiers and wounded 900 others and that it had lost less than 30 of its own men in the battle for Juba. The SPLA said it had also destroyed the bridge linking Juba to its main headquarters in Torit, which is some 84 miles away. According to the SPLA, this had cut off a group of government troops who are reported to be only 30 miles away from Torit. The rebels also claimed that its troops blew up a government ammunition dump in Juba.

The government has a different version of the events. Maj. Gen. Uwaydah said that the SPLA had sustained heavy manpower and material losses during the assault on Juba. He said the attack was an attempt by the SPLA to achieve a cheap propaganda victory and raise the morale of its soldiers who are facing defeat in all areas of southern Sudan. According to Maj. Gen. Uwaydah, this attempt was the SPLA's last card.

Travelers arriving in Khartoum from Juba say that there was a heavy loss of lives on both sides as a result of the SPLA attack. They say that the SPLA had withdrawn and the fighting had ceased. [end recording]

Deputy Chief of Staff Comments

AB1007221092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Lieutenant General al-Tahir 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shaykh, deputy chief of staff, operations, returned to Khartoum this morning from Juba after a one-day visit to the Equatoria military area.

Lt. Gen. al-Tahir confirmed that the Armed Forces are controlling the situation properly in the Equatoria area. He said the outlaws' desperate attempt to infiltrate Juba recently met with defeat and that the outlaws suffered heavy casualties in terms of loss of life and equipment.

The deputy chief of staff, operations, confirmed that the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces' morale was high and that life in Juba was proceeding normally and naturally. He pointed out that the [Operation] Summer-Crossing forces conducted their operations with complete success in accordance with a plan.

Lt. Gen. al-Tahir 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shaykh was accompanied during the visit by Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, director of the morale orientation branch; Staff Maj. Gen. Ja'far Sharif, commander of the Equatoria military area; Staff Navy Brigadier Ibrahim (?al-Burj), commander of the Naval forces; and a number of officers representing branches and corps of the general command.

Garang on 'Heavy' Fighting

EA0907150092 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 0700 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA, Colonel John Garang, says heavy fighting is continuing in Juba. He said airport and Army headquarters are under heavy bombardment, and many government troops have been killed. But in Khartoum, President al-Bashir of the Sudan, says the attack had been repulsed. He said the attack was the last kick of a dying animal.

Al-Bashir, Eritrean President Discuss Relations

EA0807214092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1459 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 8 Jul (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, today discussed with Mr. Isayas Afewerki, president of the Interim Government of Eritrea, the bilateral (?relations) between the Sudan and Eritrea and ways of supporting and developing them [word indistinct] execution of joint programs in the interest of the two peoples.

Mr. Afewerki praised the achievements that have been realized during the three years of the revolution which, he said, made active changes occur, pointing out that these achievements are model ones and will have an effect on whatever happens in the Horn of Africa, and will also have a role in strengthening Sudanese-Eritrean relations in all fields, especially in the economic field.

In a separate development, Mr. Afewerki, president of the Interim Government of Eritrea, left the country today after participating in the celebrations of the third anniversary of the salvation revolution. [passage omitted]

Iraq's Ramadan Meets Al-Bashir, Praises Ties

EA0907114092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi deputy prime minister [title as heard] and head of the Iraqi delegation participating in the third anniversary celebrations of the national salvation revolution, has told an Omdurman Radio reporter that the celebrations are deemed to be an assessment of the development that has been achieved in Sudan. He expressed satisfaction with his participation in this occasion: Any development in Sudan is regarded as beneficial to our country, whether in regard to the pan-Arab link between the two countries or in regard to brotherly Sudan's stand towards its brothers in Iraq.

About his meeting with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan said that it was a brotherly meeting far removed from diplomatic meetings which confirmed that we are on (one) road and confronting one enemy. His Excellency added: We should strive to develop our own capabilities in Sudan and Iraq to face up to the state of collapse that the Arab nation is passing through.

He explained that the two sides came out more confident in the future and reassured themselves that the capabilities of our people in Sudan and Iraq are boundless. During the meeting, he conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, and he emphasized the need to continue with meetings in the common interest.

Energy Minister Meets Iraqi Ambassador

EA1207142092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Jul (SUNA)—The minister of energy and mining, Dr. 'Uthman 'Abd al-Wahhab, Saturday [11 July] met the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd al-Samad Hamad. The meeting reviewed means of boosting bilateral relations in all spheres, especially the mining spheres. The meeting also tackled the progressing relation between the two sisterly countries, Arab and Islamic nations' issues, and boosting the trend of self-reliance and the consolidation of Arab and Islamic energy to reach the sufficiency and justice societies by adopting science, technology and exchange of experiences [as received].

RCC Member Receives Libyan Delegation

EA0807214592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] maj-gen al-Tijani [Adam] al-Tahir received at his office at the republican palace here Wednesday [8 July] the [leader] of the

Libyan delegation participating in the celebrations of the third anniversary of the national salvation revolution, (?Musa Abu Furaywah).

The meeting has reviewed the projects of cooperation between the two brotherly countries within the integration between them and what has been achieved so [far] in this connection.

Also the meeting has discussed the issues of the joint concern. Deputy secretary of the Libyan brotherhood office here was present at the meeting.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Turkish Parliament

EA0907110592 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1457 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (SUNA)—An agreement on a memorandum of understanding between the two foreign relations committees in the Transitional National Assembly and the Turkish National Assembly was signed on 7 July. Professor Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, chairman of the Sudanese Foreign Relations Committee, signed for Sudan, and Mr. Fatih (Akomti), deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Turkish National Assembly signed for Turkey.

The memorandum aims at developing and strengthening cooperation between the (?two countries) as well as promoting the exchange of experiences and working towards the formation of a friendship group in the Sudanese and Turkish parliaments.

The Turkish parliamentary delegation left the country today after participating in the country's third anniversary of the salvation revolution.

Tunisia

Trials of al-Nahdah Defendants Open

LD0907152392 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] [Unidentified studio announcer] At the military court in Tunis, 171 Tunisian fundamentalists are appearing before their judge this morning. They are charged with harming the state's security, conspiracy, and attempting to assassinate the head of state. They are all facing the death penalty. With our correspondent in Tunis, Rida Boughezi:

Rida Boughezi, you were at the court this morning and you have just left it, can you tell us what the atmosphere was like inside?

[Boughezi] Yes, amid impressive security measures inside the court and accompanied by chants "Allahu akbar" [God is Great], the first defendant entered the courtroom of the military court, followed by 126 others who joined him in the dock making the V sign for victory and singing the Tunisian national anthem.

Surrounded by soldiers, the defendants, most of whom have been detained for over a year, tried to wave at relatives or friends among the 50 people or so authorized to enter the courtroom. At the far end of this fairly cramped and overheated courtroom, lawyers, journalists, and foreign observers, mainly representing Amnesty International, the International Human Rights Federation, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, and the Union of Arab Lawyers were rubbing shoulders.

[Announcer] Precisely, Rida Boughezi, regarding this international presence, what are the legal norms and what guarantees have been given for this trial?

[Boughezi] Listen, after reading the 72-page long bill of indictment, the president of the court, a civilian who was surrounded by an attorney with a rank of major colonel and four other army officers, said that the trial would be held within the norms, with the utmost clarity, and with full respect for the rights of the accused, especially the right to be defended.

The defense lawyers replied by deploring the little time they had been given to examine the files of the 171 defendants, 44 of whom are on the run [numbers as heard], and who are all, I must remind you, facing the death penalty by virtue of Article 72 of Tunisia's penal code.

Some defendants have also complained that they had been unable to see their lawyers, and this was confirmed by the latter. It is worth pointing out that the Tunisian military jurisdiction, although special, is not an exceptional jurisdiction, and the military are part of it because the property protected by this jurisdiction is the army itself. Moreover, every time a soldier is involved in a trial, the military courts are competent to try civilians. This explains why this trial is taking place before a military court.

[Announcer] It is thought that this trial could drag on. Any idea on the possible duration?

[Boughezi] Listen, the court adjourned for one hour this morning, and it resumed at about noon when the first defendants started being examined. However, the court suddenly adjourned the session until tomorrow morning. Therefore, this trial could well last several days because of the high number of defendants, namely 171.

[Announcer] Thank you, Rida Boughezi.

Military Court Begins Trial 9 Jul

LD0907141292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The military court in Tunis has this morning under the chairmanship of Judge Bechir Keddous, began to consider the case of the attack on the internal security of the state with the attendance of the public, national, and international press and a number of observers representing humanitarian organizations and trade unions.

At 0900 [0800 GMT] the head of the court called on the defendants who are affiliated to the so-called al-Nahdah Movement who are in detention. He then read the list of defendants who are still at large. After reviewing the names of the lawyers who had submitted (?application for the trial), the head of the court read the text of the referral, which includes the 16 charges against those involved in the case. Among these charges is attack with the intention of changing the system of the state, the charge of involvement in the attack intending to change the system of the state, and the charge of attempting to attack the life of the head of state. He also presented a brief explanation of the events of the case.

The military court adjourned its session at midday and will resume its deliberation of this case tomorrow morning. Judge Bechir Keddous explained that the court has decided to postpone the questioning of the defendants until tomorrow morning at the request of the defense to enable the lawyers to visit their clients.

Second Trial of Fundamentalists Opens

LD1007093692 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] [Announcer] The first trial of Tunisian fundamentalists accused of plotting against the state's security opened yesterday. One hundred and seventy one officials and activists of al-Nahdah Movement appeared before the military court of Tunis for three hours. Today a second trial of fundamentalists opens. These defendants are also facing the death penalty. Here is correspondent Rida Boughezi from Tunis.

[Boughezi] The second trial, which opens this morning before a second chamber of the military court of Tunis, concerns what is now commonly known as the "security group." This group is made up of 108 members of the armed forces, police and the customs who were arrested at the end of December 1990, charged with possessing firearms and explosives destined for attacks on public buildings.

This ring, accused of having links with the Islamist movement al-Nahdah, is thought to be the extension of an armed group which had planned to carry out a coup d'etat to remove the former President Bourguiba. After they were found and arrested at the last minute, the members of this ring were then pardoned by President Ben Ali some time after he came to power. It is thought that these people regrouped to resume the execution of their program aimed at establishing a theocratic state.

The military in the group are said to have contributed to the creation of underground cells within the army and to the divulgence of defense secrets. The policemen, for their part, are said to have communicated secret plans and information and the customs officers have reportedly leaked details on the least-controlled parts of the borders.

The 108 defendants, who face the death penalty, will all have lawyers and the trial, just like the first one, will take place in the presence of observers.

[Announcer] The al-Nahdah Movement yesterday described as null and void the trial of its leaders, namely the trial which opened yesterday. The statement signed by the president-in-exile of al-Nahdah, Rached Ghannouchi, says that the verdict, whatever it is, will be arbitrary and unjust.

Ghannouchi Comments on Trial

*LD1007153192 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] [Unidentified studio announcer] Tunisian Islamists are before their judges. A second trial has opened this morning at the Tunis military court. This time it is a question of 108 militarymen, policemen, and customs officers. We will come back to this in a minute.

Let us listen right away to the reaction of the leader of the Tunisian Islamist movement, Rached Ghannouchi, who is living in exile. He is currently being judged in absentia in Tunis. He has just given an interview to the RFI Arabic section.

[Begin Ghannouchi recording in Arabic fading to French translation] This trial is a settlement of political scores with non-political means. Let us assume that our al-Nahdah movement is in fact an extremist, violent, terrorist, and fundamentalist one: could we say the same about the Human Rights League when it was dissolved? Is the Tunisian General Union of Students [Islamic students' union] a terrorist organization when the authorities finished it off? Are the other unrecognized political parties violent fundamentalists when they are being prosecuted? Are Messrs Ahmed Ben Salah and Essid terrorist elements?

The fact is that in Tunisia there is a plot against any serious opposition. Each time there is a true opposition, it is eliminated. There is a fake democracy and a fake opposition in Tunisia to sell the country to the West, so that it is said that there is a multiparty system in Tunisia, when in fact there is a personal authority and a police regime. [end recording]

[Announcer] This statement has been received and translated by Sellami Hosni. Furthermore, let us specify that Tunisian official sources have denied Rached Ghannouchi's accusations. They indicated that this trial is a common law trial on the basis of tangible proof. They, of course, stressed the transparent character of the proceedings and the guarantees brought forward by the presence of foreign observers in the court.

Let us go to the court now. Rida Boughezi, you have just come out of the court after having attended the opening of a second trial which concerns 108 militarymen, policemen, and customs' officers. This trial, Rida, has finally been postponed to 27 July.

[Boughezi] Absolutely, Yves, the morning trial of the 108 defendants, including Ali Laaridh, the spokesman of al-Nahdah movement, has been postponed until 27 July as decided by the court, which has accepted the lawyers' request. The lawyers complained that they did not have enough time to examine the files of their clients, some of whom have the rank of captain or lieutenant.

However, there is also another reason why this trial has been postponed. That is because it is being held at the same time as the trial of the first group of 171 Islamists who are being judged before another court of the military tribunal about three kilometers from the barracks where this second trial is taking place. This has prevented, for instance, some lawyers from being present in the two trials this morning. Consequently, it is to avoid the overlapping of the two trials that the postponement to 27 July has been decided upon.

[Announcer] OK, we understood that one trial has been postponed to 27 July. We will talk about it on 27 July. Let us now go back to the trial of the 171 Islamists which opened yesterday and continued this morning. Rida?

[Boughezi] Yes, the first trial continued this morning at Le Bardo military tribunal. The tribunal listened to defendant Hedi El Ghali, author of a plan aimed at blowing up the head of state's airplane in flight. Hedi El Ghali admitted to belonging to the al-Nahdah movement. Some sources believe that this trial could last three weeks: 10 days for the hearings, 10 days for the defense speeches, and one for the deliberations. The question currently being raised is: Why are there two trials for almost one case, since it is a question of one attempt aimed at overthrowing the regime by force? Well, the military tribunal prosecutor replied to the defense question this morning by recalling that the arrest of the al-Nahdah military network in charge of infiltrating the armed and police forces had been carried out in December 1990, way before the arrest of the brains behind the attempt, that is to say the leaders of the al-Nahdah Islamic movement. This is, therefore, the main reason why there are two trials where, to remind you, the total number of defendants equals 279.

More on Trial of al-Nahdah Members

*LD1007215992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] The trial of the second group of members of the so-called al-Nahdah movement began today at the military barracks in Bab Sadoun in Tunis. The group is accused of conspiracy against the internal security of the state with the intention of changing the regime. There are 108 accused, including some of the leading members of the group such as Ali Laaridh, Mohamed Habib Lassouad, and Ziad Doulatli. The group also includes a number of military personnel and members of the internal security forces.

The court opened under the chairmanship of Judge Habib Youcef at about 0915. All of the accused attended,

together with their defense counsel led by the dean of the bar association, Abdelouhab Bahi. The trial was also monitored by representatives of a number of international and regional humanitarian organizations, including Amnesty International and the International Human Rights Federation; also representatives of some foreign embassies accredited to Tunisia and a considerable number of representatives of the national and international press.

Immediately on the opening of the session, Judge Habib Youcef called the accused, of whom 21 are still at large. Mr. Bahi presented a collection of representation authorizations in the names of his colleagues. Their names and the names of the accused they defend were called. Also the names of the lawyers commissioned to defend those of the accused who did not authorize lawyers to defend them were also read.

After that the chairman of the court read the charge sheet, according to which the accused were referred to this military court, together with the various chapters of the referral.

A number of charges were addressed to the accused, including in particular violating the internal security of the state with the intention of changing the regime of state; inciting the population to confront each other with weapons; and participating in preserving an unrecognized society—this charge was addressed to Ali Laaridh, Ziad Doulatli, Sahnoun Doughri, Mohamed Nejib Lassoud, Mohamed Ayachi, Mohamed Khadhar, Ali Oueslati, Ezzedine Ben Aicha, and Ridha Boukali, who is still at large—participating in violating the internal security of the state with the intention of changing the regime of the state; inciting the population to confront each other with weapons and participating in preserving an unrecognized society; participating in violating the internal security of the state with the intention of changing the regime of the state; belonging to a society which has a political purpose; and inciting military personnel to belong to a society which has a political purpose—this charge was addressed in particular to a number of military personnel involved in that case—conspiring against the internal security of state followed by preparatory deeds; conspiring followed by preparatory deeds; aggravated theft; handling explosives and arms cache; participating in aggravated theft; disclosing professional secrets; and forming unlicensed societies.

Then the chairman of the military court reviewed the chapters of the penal code, the military defense and penal codes, society law and weapons law according to which the accused were referred.

The dean of the bar association intervened and in the name of his colleagues called for postponing the trial. He asked for the postponement to be until after the end of the other case which concerns violating the internal security of state which is being tried before the military

court in Bou Choucha in Tunis. He pointed out that a number of lawyers are defending both cases simultaneously.

In response to the requests of the defense lawyers, the representative of the public prosecution pointed out that the court has provided the lawyers with all the conditions and resources to be informed about the file since the referral of the case to the investigating magistrate. The court has put the full file at the disposal of the lawyers and enabled them to copy the documents and [words indistinct]. He added that the court is ready to give every assistance to the lawyers in order to provide a suitable atmosphere for the preparation of their defense under good conditions. He said that there is no legal objection to separating the two cases. The public prosecution representative delegated the issue of deciding the postponement of the case to the court.

After the immediate consultations, carried out by the chairman of the court with his four justices, he announced the decision of the court to respond to the postponement request, and postponed the trial until 27 July.

The session was adjourned at approximately 1330.

At a hall near the courtroom the various exhibits of weapons were on view, particularly detonators, explosives, firearms, cold steel weapons, inciting leaflets, and printing and publishing machines which were discovered by the security forces in hiding places everywhere in Tunisia in the possession of members of the so-called al-Nahdah movement.

Trial of al-Nahdah Defendants Continues

*LD1107224192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] The military court of Tunis continued today to look into the case of aggression against the internal security of the state. The defense lawyers and representatives of the national and international press, observers of international humanitarian organizations and a number of relatives of the defendants attended the session.

Seven defendants appeared at the morning session before the court, which was presided over by Bechir Keddous. The admissions of some defendants that they were members of the consultative council and the executive bureau of the so-called al-Nahdah Movement and that they participated in several meetings of these structures during April, May and June 1991 were recorded. The court also recorded their admissions that they had contacts with leaders of this movement and attended meetings with them and that one of them received a monthly salary (?in kind) from the so-called administration of the al-Nahdah movement.

The session was adjourned at 1300 this afternoon; the court was to continue interrogating the defendants in the afternoon.

Further Protests Against UN Inspection Teams**Arabs Urged To End Silence on Teams**

*JN1007191092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh today described the stationing of the UN inspection team, under Karen Jansen of the United States, in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building as an act of provocation calculated to undermine Iraqi farmers and peasants.

In a statement to INA today, the minister said the ruckus stirred up by the UN inspection team in Iraq is being staged upon orders from the U.S. Administration to cover up its failed aggression and the failure of the inspection teams to turn up any evidence to incriminate Iraq. Iraq, he emphasized, has fulfilled all its obligations to the UN Security Council, indicating that through its acts of provocation against Iraq, the United States is seeking to have the council pass further resolutions against the steadfast Iraqi people.

The minister appealed to Arab states to discontinue their appalling silence and denounce the UN inspection team's infantile and immoral behavior in Iraq. He emphasized that the multifaceted conspiratorial conduct of the United States and its allies is not directed at Iraq alone but at all Arab states.

The minister urged Arab and other agriculture ministers to take Iraq's side and prevail on the United Nations to withdraw the UN inspection team stationed in front of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building.

Arab Ministers Notified of 'Siege'

*JN1107084292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT
11 Jul 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Agriculture Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has stated that the provocative acts by the international inspection team, which is besieging the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, are within the framework of the aggressive series the U.S. Administration is leading against Iraq.

In letters sent to Arab agriculture ministers, the Iraqi minister affirmed that the international inspection team has been besieging the building since last Sunday, 5 July 1992.

He added that these acts of provocation are part of the fabrication of crises which are being used as an excuse to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, prevent them from securing their own food, and harm their food security and national sovereignty.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh appealed to the Arab ministers to denounce and condemn this behavior, which is tantamount to an act of aggression which completes the U.S. conspiracy of burning wheat and barley in northern Iraq. He also called on them to immediately and directly intervene with the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, to

have them stop this act of provocation which has nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to inspection.

The minister added: In a previous cable, we notified the Arab Agricultural Development Organization cable about the inspection team's siege of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, as well as all subsequent developments.

Minister on 'Fabricated Fuss'

*JN1107133592 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT
11 Jul 92*

[Text] Baghdad, Jul. 11, INA—Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud yesterday described besieging of the international inspection team led by the American Karen Jansen of the Agriculture Ministry building as a provocative operation against Iraqi peasants and farmers.

In a statement to INA correspondent the minister said the fabricated fuss created by the international inspection team against Iraq came in implementation of the U.S. Administration orders concerning the covering of its failure in its aggression the inspection team non-finding anything for condemning Iraq. [sentence as received]

He has affirmed that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations towards the United Nations Security Council resolutions, pointing out that the American Administration was trying by its provocative practices against Iraq the adoption of more resolutions by the Security Council against its people.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud appealed to the Arab countries for breaking their role in denouncing the childish and immoral behaviours of the international inspection team in Iraq. The minister warned that the conspiratorial role played by America and its allies in various shapes did not aim at Iraq alone but the entire Arab nation. He has also called on agriculture ministers in the Arab homeland and the world to perform their humane role in standing by Iraq and to intervene seriously with the United Nations to pull out the inspection team stationed in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation building in Iraq.

On the other hand, on Thursday, envoy from the UN Special Committee arrived to the scene Douglas Englund, who arrived in Baghdad a day earlier presented few proposals to defuse the crisis created by Mrs. Jansen who demanded the inspection of the ministry headquarters. [sentence as received]

Mr. Englund held with Iraqi officials two rounds of talks as the Iraqi position remained unchanged for the fifth day running.

Head of the Iraqi side to the talks Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin said the joint international inspection team, headed by Mrs. Jansen is due to finish its work on

Saturday (July 11) after extending it for another 5 days. Mrs. Jansen and her team were due to have left Baghdad last Saturday.

Mr. Amin also said the team has inspected 18 sites during its visit to Baghdad which started on June 26. It found nothing that contradicts UN Resolution No. 687, he added.

He also said a nuclear inspection team is also to visit Iraq in few days' time.

Mr. Amin ruled out news that Douglas Englund had delivered a message to the Iraqi side on the attitude of the UN Special Committee towards the inspecting the Agriculture Ministry. Mr. Englund had presented proposals during the talks with him at Ishtar Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad on Monday.

In reply to AL-THAWRAH daily question, Mr. Englund said during his talks with the Iraqi side he conveyed a viewpoint on the inspection of the ministry and he is now waiting for an Iraqi response. He also said there is no deadline for his task.

Mrs. Karen Jansen said her team on Wednesday inspected a number of sites in Baghdad and its suburbs. The team found nothing contrary to the Security Council Resolution 687.

Meanwhile, demonstrations swept the avenue of the ministry in protest against the UN team demand. The demand was described as a provocative measure to Iraqis. Egyptians in Iraq on Friday also demonstrated in protest against the UN inspection team's attempt to search the Agriculture Ministry. The protesters lodged two memorandums of protest with head of the UN operations in Iraq.

On Thursday also, Mr. Englund inspected his team which is sealing off the ministry without entering it.

Students Protest Against UN Team

JN1207112592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Student masses this morning staged a protest march condemning the provocative stationing of the international inspection team outside the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building.

One of the placards raised by the protesters read in English "Down With Bush and His Agents Who Want To Starve Iraq by Burning Wheat and Barley Crops and Who Are Besieging the Agriculture Ministry."

Fahd al-Shaqrah, chairman of the National Federation of Iraqi Students, affirmed during the march that this aggressive act contravenes the humane principles heralded by the United Nations and the UN Security Council, not to mention that it runs counter to international norms.

Fahd al-Shaqrah submitted an appeal to the UN Security Council president through the supervisor of the international inspection team posted outside the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building, urging him to take immediate action to terminate the stationing of the international inspection team near the ministry. The appeal added that the student masses strongly protest this continued stationing, which is aimed at incitement to bring about the passage of further unfair resolutions against Iraq on the pretext of implementing UN resolutions.

The student demonstrators decided to stage a sit-in outside the ministry building to protest the violations being committed by the international inspection team.

Ramadan Meets Jordanian Delegation

NC1207140892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has said that the UN Security Council has lost its legitimacy because it has violated the principles and Charter of the United Nations and practices a double standard in issuing and applying UN resolutions.

Ramadan cited the Security Council's refusal to meet to consider the complaint of Iraq, a UN member, regarding the repeated violation of its airspace by U-2 aircraft and the burning of crops in northern Iraq by American and British aircraft. By contrast, the council met immediately when Iraq refused to allow an inspection team to enter the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry. He said that Iraq will continue to refuse because it is defending the country's sovereignty.

During a meeting with a delegation from the Union of Jordanian Agricultural Engineers led by its deputy chairman, Muhammad Abu-'Ayish, Ramadan added that the American aggression against Iraq takes many forms, but the ultimate goal is the same. He affirmed that the great Iraqi people, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will not be affected by the rude and provocative American methods that have taken the U.S. Administration back to the days of moral decadence and cultural backwardness.

The vice president praised the genuine pan-Arab position of the Jordanian Government, king, and people and Jordan's resistance to threats and pressure. He said that free Arabs refuse to submit to their enemies, and resist the flagrant methods of their enemies through work, creativity, and production so as to enjoy the blessings of progress, freedom, and independence.

The fraternal Jordanian delegation expressed its great admiration for Saddam Husayn's courageous leadership and the steadfastness of the valiant Iraqi people against the repeated American aggressions. The delegation also praised the process of reconstruction and development that is progressing daily in glorious and proud Iraq. The delegation considers this a matter of pride for all free

Arabs and an additional source of strength for foiling the hostile plots against the Arab nation.

The meeting was also attended by Muhammad Tahir al-Hiyali, chairman of the Union of Iraqi Agricultural Engineers.

Suicide Attempted in Protest of Team

JN1207134192 Baghdad INA in English 1232 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 12, INA—An Iraqi young man on Saturday tried to burn himself in protest against a U.N. team demand to inspect headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

The young man, in his late twenties, poured a gallon of petrol on his body and lit a match. The fire immediately engulfed the lower part of his body before the people interfered to put the fire off. He was taken to hospital.

A joint U.N. chemical, biological and ballistic inspection team is waiting outside the ministry for the sixth day running to get an Iraqi consent to search the building. Iraq says the building is not covered by the mandate of the U.N. inspection team as defined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 687.

The suicide attempt stirred wide-scale emotions among other protesters who marched to the building, shouting Allahu Akbar (God is great). The incident, which took place at 10:30 am, surprised the U.N. team members who declined to comment.

Douglas Englund, an envoy from the U.N. Special Commission, is now in charge of the inspection team. Englund, who arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday, presented four proposals to defuse the crisis created by Mrs. Karen Jansen who demanded the inspection of the ministry headquarters. Jansen left Baghdad for New York on Friday night.

Mr. Englund held with Iraqi officials two rounds of talks as the Iraqi position remained unchanged for the sixth day running.

Observers see that the replacement of Mrs. Jansen by Mr. Englund for heading the team is an indication of an attempt to defuse the crisis created by the former.

Another indication to get out of the bottleneck is the reduction in the number of U.N. vehicles. Only two were observed on Saturday whereas six vehicles were sealing off the ministry last week.

Head of the Iraqi side to the talks, Mr. Husam Muhammad Amin said the joint international inspection team, headed by Mrs. Jansen, was due to finish its work on Saturday (July 11) after extending it for another five days. Mrs. Jansen and her team were due to have left Baghdad last Saturday.

Mr. Amin also said the team has inspected 18 sites during its visit to Baghdad which started on June 26. It found nothing that contradicts U.N. Resolution 687, he added.

He also said a nuclear inspection team is to visit Iraq in a few days time.

Mr. Amin ruled out news that Douglas Englund had delivered a message to the Iraqi side on the attitude of the U.N. Special Commission towards the inspection of the Agriculture Ministry. Mr. Englund presented proposals during talks at Ishtar Hotel in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Englund said he conveyed a viewpoint on the inspection of the ministry and he is now waiting for an Iraqi response, he also said there is no deadline for his task.

Mrs. Jansen said her team on Wednesday inspected a number of sites in Baghdad and its suburbs. The team found nothing contrary to Security Council Resolution 687.

Also on Saturday, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh reiterated that the siege laid to the ministry by the U.N. inspection team is a provocation to Iraqi farmers.

The row created by the team comes at the orders of the U.S. Administration and is an attempt to cover up the failure by inspection teams to come out with anything that would be used against Iraq the minister said. [passage omitted]

Ramadan on Security Council's Position

JN1307090792 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 12, INA—Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan confirmed that the Security Council lost the legitimacy of its presence for it had set aside the human principles and charter and its duality in issuing the resolutions.

Mr. Ramadan said in a meeting with delegation of the Agronomists Union in Jordan that the Security Council had desisted from reviewing Iraq's complaints on the American warplanes' burning of its wheat and barley crops, while the Council held a meeting immediately when Iraq rejected the U.N. inspection team to search headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, confirming that the Iraqi rejection will continue because it is a defence on national sovereignty.

Spokesman Denounces Jansen's Statements

JN1207194192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jul 92

["Text" of statement by an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman regarding a news conference held by Karen Jansen, head of a UN Special Committee inspection team, in Bahrain on 11 July]

[Text] American Karen Jansen, head of the [UN] Special Committee's inspection team which is trying to storm

the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, held a news conference in Bahrain on Saturday, 11 July, during which she announced that she holds the rank of major in the U.S. Army and that she would have been very proud to have served in the ranks of the allied forces that opposed Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on this statement, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told INA the following: Mrs. Jansen's disclosure of her rank in the U.S. Army confirms the information published by Iraq concerning her identity and suspected mission. It also emphasizes, once again, the extent of America's exploitation of the Special Committee and the United Nations with its sending U.S. Army officers and U.S. spies to Iraq, under UN cover, to serve American goals that are hostile to Iraq, and by disdaining the Special Committee's mission and the principles of the UN Charter.

Americans have constituted 60 percent of the members of some inspection teams and 40 percent of the members of Mrs. Jansen's team. This reflects only one aspect of the U.S. control over the United Nations and its institutions, as well as its use of them in accordance with the goals of U.S. policy.

Moreover, Mrs. Jansen's announcement that she would have been very proud to have fought against Iraq along with the allied forces clearly reflects her vile political position on Iraq and its people. This position conflicts with the basic principles of neutrality, objectivity, and professionalism, which should distinguish representatives of UN bodies. Mrs. Jansen's announcement of regret over having failed to participate in the aggression against Iraq reflects the ways inspectors sent to Iraq by the Special Committee are selected. The makeup of these teams is dominated by political positions and intelligence that are hostile to Iraq. This occurs at the expense of technical, scientific, and professional capability, which should distinguish employees in a UN technical body such as the Special Committee.

The example of U.S. intelligence agent David Kay, who was distanced from the International Atomic Energy Agency in dramatic fashion after he sent Iraqi documents to Washington instead of to the United Nations, as well as that of Karen Jansen and others are clear examples of the selection guidelines which are based on political and intelligence considerations, and which hurt the United Nations and its credibility above all else.

Envoy to UN on 'Victims' of New World Order
NC1007205392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT
10 July 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, has stressed that the so-called new world order is nothing but a kind of international disorder and illegality. The first victims of the new order created by the United States are the UN Organization and the Security Council, which has become an office of the U.S. State Department. The

Security Council no longer represents the international organization since it has become a tool of U.S. policy to control other people's wealth.

In an interview within a program entitled "U.S. Hegemony, Fact or Fiction?" which Baghdad television aired tonight, Dr. al-Anbari said that the 30-state aggression against Iraq was a blatant violation of all international norms and charters. The aggressive practices by the United States and its European allies since this aggression are reminiscent of the old colonial era, which was characterized by the enslavement of the peoples of the world and the control of their national resources.

Dr. al-Anbari explained that the states of the world have exposed the course of the U.S. game and bared its methods through the formulation of new ideas that have begun to appear on the international scene. He cited as an example what happened at last month's conference in Rio de Janeiro, where an international agreement was formulated denouncing the industrial world, including the United States, which was completely isolated at the conference. This is considered a defeat for the United States and a real denunciation of its frivolous policy.

He explained that the United States, with only 4 percent of the world's population, is responsible for 25 percent of the world's production of carbon dioxide, which is harmful to the ozone layer and the environment. The United States is also polluting the seas and spreading nuclear and industrial toxins because it dumps nuclear waste in Third World countries, exploiting their poverty and economic need.

Dr. al-Anbari revealed important details about U.S. blackmailing tactics, including its use of a carrot-and-stick policy to pressure other states to support unjust resolutions against Iraq in an attempt to tighten the blockade against it and interfere in its domestic affairs. He disclosed that some heads of state, ministers, and ambassadors accredited to the Security Council have received bribes and been subjected to various pressures to adopt resolutions that do not conform with their beliefs. One of the ambassadors sympathetic to Iraq said jokingly: "Perhaps he is the only one who has not received a Mercedes from the United States."

Dr. al-Anbari noted that each vote at the Security Council takes place after telephone calls and personal visits at the highest levels to the various states. Giving an example, he said that the representative of the one major nonaligned state that was a member of the Security Council refused to vote on the subject of the demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait. This enraged the U.S. secretary of state, who telephoned the foreign minister of that state asking him to vote in favor of the resolution. The foreign minister refused. The U.S. secretary of state then contacted their prime minister, telling him that "the future of our relations in the economic, political, and diplomatic spheres depends on

how you vote on this resolution." This compelled the ambassador of that state to vote in favor of the unjust resolution.

He explained that all the international financial institutions, development funds, and commercial banks worldwide have been exploited to pressure countries into adopting unjust resolutions against Iraq that they do not believe in and do not serve their national interests. Al-Anbari pointed out that the countries of the world have uncovered the U.S. scheme and methods. Thus, they have started to reject the U.S. hegemonistic attempt to make them adopt its resolutions and to avoid accepting the U.S. view because they know that they have become a tool in the hands of the United States.

On the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to bring to the United States citizens whom the U.S. court considers defendants, Dr. al-Anbari said this decision is an international scandal and an application of the rule of the jungle, which reminds us what things were like during the classic colonial era in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Iraq's permanent delegate to the UN stressed that the world today is subject to new changes, whether in the field of technology or the economy, and that the new world order that the United States is seeking to implement is doomed to fail and recede. He cited as an example the appearance of new international blocks in the world, such as the French-German agreement to form joint military troops to be a nucleus for a European army to get rid of the presence of U.S. troops in Europe, and China's tendency to act independently as a new power in the world.

Referring to the reasons for the United States' interest in the Arab Gulf region, al-Anbari noted that the United States seeks by various means and methods to seize the Arab oil wealth in the region, knowing that this wealth could give it an economic negotiating power in the face of its European and Japanese rivals.

Al-Anbari talked about the missions of the inspection teams in Baghdad. He stated that the one who really must have authority and who must decide what is legitimate and what is not is the team's executive secretary, who is present at the United Nations and who chooses the experts from the various countries of the world. Some of the persons who have come to Iraq have acted contrary to the actions prescribed for them and have undertaken unlawful practices that have nothing to do with the nature of their international work and that serve the real purposes they had come to achieve; namely, purely intelligence-related purposes that serve their own countries. He said that these persons, who take shelter under the UN umbrella, are military personnel. He added: Karen Jansen, the head of the mission that is currently present in Iraq, is a U.S. Army officer with the rank of major who participated in the forces of aggression against Iraq [as received].

Regarding the U.S. troops' burning of wheat and barley crops in northern Iraq, Iraq's permanent UN delegate stated that these are aggressive acts that are unjustified by any UN clause or resolution. He added: They constitute an international crime for which the Security Council must be brought to account, noting that the Security Council has lost its credibility and ability to adopt a sound resolution that is in line with its responsibilities for applying international law and international political relations. He noted that what the U.S. troops are doing in northern Iraq is an unlawful act and that these troops have no right or excuse to be there and to burn crops and terrorize citizens.

Foreign Minister Comments on UN Employee Safety JN1107115392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—In a statement to INA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has commented on the 9 July 1992 statement by the UN secretary general official spokesman on the series of explosions targeting the safety of those working in the UN humanitarian program.

The foreign minister said: What surprises us is that the official spokesman for the UN secretary general has avoided specifying the locations where the explosions occurred. As is known by the office of the UN program coordinator in Baghdad, all these incidents have taken place in the northern governorates, the latest being the attack against UN guards in Irbil on 8 July 1992, wounding two as we are informed by the official in charge of the guards in Baghdad. It goes without saying that the UN program coordinator and the official in charge of the guards in Baghdad had briefed the UN secretary general about the details of these incidents and where they had taken place.

The foreign minister added: Why then had the official spokesman for the secretary general omitted these details? It seems that this omission is intentional because the UN secretary general and the world at large know that the government has no administrative presence in the northern governorates, which over past months have become an open arena for robbers, highwaymen, and irresponsible groups and factions, which are directly supported and encouraged by the United States and the countries that are allied with it.

Ahmad Husayn emphasized that the responsibility for these incidents should be assumed by the United States and the countries that are allied with it, which have imposed this confusion contrary to the rules of international law under the pretext of establishing a safe haven. In addition to this, the Kurdish parties are also responsible for these incidents.

Is this then the so-called safehaven the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and their allies have worked to establish? He noted in this respect that the Iraqi authorities have protected the UN cadres and their locations, and that no incidents have taken place in

all of Iraq, excepting those incidents to which we have referred and where the Iraqi authorities are not present. The Iraqi Government has provided the UN cadres with assistance and facilities, the latest being the Iraqi authorities' positive response to the request by the UN coordinator's office to secure the safety of those wounded and to transport them abroad, as this stems from the competent Iraqi authorities' concern for the safety of UN program workers in Iraq.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying: We wonder what kind of cooperation the UN secretary general expects from the Iraqi authorities to safeguard the safety of UN employees while the Iraqi authorities have no presence in the areas where the confusion prevails and the attacks have taken place?

Ba'th Official Urges Action To Release Assets

JN1007120292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Comrade 'Aba-al-Ghana 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has urged political parties, forces, and figures to demand their governments release frozen Iraqi assets in their countries' banks as a first step toward a final lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that such a step can contribute to alleviating the 23 months of acute humanitarian suffering by over 18 million Iraqis.

The member of the Iraq Command of the party said: We are appealing to every honorable and sincere Arab—partisan or nonpartisan, official or ordinary citizen—to pursue all possible means and effectively press for the release of frozen Iraqi assets, given the fact that this siege, as leader President Saddam Husayn has said, is basically an Arab-Islamic siege rather than an international one. He added: Maintaining the siege imposed on Iraq is primarily a U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist decision. It aims to achieve political, conspiratorial objectives against Iraq and Arabism. This decision has nothing to do with UN resolutions. Had there been a minimum level of justice, fairness, and objectivity, the UN Security Council would have sought to ease the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq during its bimonthly review, in line with the obligations that Iraq has fulfilled in accordance with Resolution 687.

Concluding his statement, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said: Releasing Iraqi funds held in Arab and foreign banks will constitute a precise indicator of a government's credibility and the extent of its commitment to human rights. Such an action will also reflect an independent political will and decisionmaking by any regime that does not accept U.S. hegemony and the unjust arbitrariness being imposed on peoples under the banner of the new world order.

Turkish Decision on Forces 'Severed All Ties'

JN1107082592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has asserted that if Turkey continues to implement U.S.-Zionist schemes, it will become a spearhead used by evil forces against regimes that oppose imperialist policies.

In an editorial today, the paper says that the Turkish decision to maintain the presence of [words indistinct] in the southeastern areas of Turkey was neither strange nor new, considering that the Turkish regime has, since the first moments of the Zionist aggression against Iraq, stood in the trench of the enemies.

The paper adds that the Ozal regime was the first to grant the forces of the unjust aggression military facilities on its territory, noting that the Incirlik base was a springboard for aggression to bomb the cities of Iraq and kill its children.

The paper explains that putting Turkish territory at the disposal of the Atlantic alliance forces has severed all ties that existed between the two Muslim countries [words indistinct] the Turkish regime any results of its aggressive acts which harm the state, thus abandoning the values of neighborliness and religion.

The paper adds that Washington and its allies, who used the Kurdish issue to justify their entry into northern Iraq and interfere in its domestic affairs, have never been concerned for the Kurdish people. Washington and its allies cannot also be more concerned for the Iraqi nation than the Iraqi Government.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes: If the head of the Turkish regime had contemplated reaping the fruit of his services to the Americans and Zionists after his actual participation in striking at Iraq, he should realize that he is only a card used by the Americans and that when his role is over, they will throw this card aside.

Speculation Follows Barzan al-Tikriti's Arrival

NC1007151592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi
People in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Informed sources have disclosed that Barzan al-Tikriti arrived in Baghdad recently after receiving assurances from international quarters that tyrant Saddam Husayn has become undesirable and hence must step down. These sources have informed AL-WIFAQ newspaper that Barzan, the Iraqi UN permanent representative in Geneva, has received international assurances that the Iraqi regime can stay in its present structure but without tyrant Saddam. The international quarters do not object to Barzan replacing Saddam Husayn.

The sources linked Barzan's arrival in Baghdad with his publication of two articles in the Iraqi AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper calling for Iraqi-Kuwaiti unity and for Iraq's admission to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Saddam Reportedly Bans Movement of Military

NC1207173992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] The tyrant Saddam Husayn has banned military brigades from moving outside of their positions for fear they might carry out a coup against the regime.

Meanwhile, citing U.S. intelligence reports, the NEW YORK TIMES reported that the execution of army officers has been going on since the attempt to overthrow the ostracized regime on 29 June. Experts believe that not all of the officers who were executed or detained were involved in the coup attempt. The ostracized regime is using this as a pretext to liquidate those suspected of being disloyal.

Berlin Press Reports Government-in-Exile Planned

LD1207172192 Berlin ADN in German 1424 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut (ADN)—An Iraqi government-in-exile controlled by Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria will be formed before summer's end. A well-known Iraqi emigrant told ADN on 12 July that between 240 and 300 opponents of Saddam Husayn will hold a congress in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. The Tehran, Riyadh, and Damascus governments will each nominate one-third of the participants. An opposition conference in Vienna in June brought no tangible results. The Iraqi cabinet-in-exile will be led by a three-strong directorate, composed of one Shi'ite Muslim, one Sunni Moslem, and one Kurd. Candidates include: Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the pro-Iranian Shi'ite leader; Adib al-Jadir, the Sunni independent living in Cairo; and either Mas'ud Barzani or Jalal Talabani, both Kurdish leaders. The Iraqi politician in exile, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that the Iraqi opposition is finally being deprived of its independence with this plan. A 17-party alliance founded in Damascus in December 1990 will then play practically no further role. Iraq risks becoming a second Lebanon after Saddam Husayn's eventual fall since the neighboring states might conduct their conflicts through their adherents in the present opposition.

Rabin Addresses Labor Party Central Committee

TA1207163992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1449 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Address by Yitzhaq Rabin, Labor party chairman and prime minister-designate, to the Labor party's Central Committee at the Cinerama hall in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Dear Labor party members: We are facing a turning point that was manifested in the results of the elections for the 13th Knesset. For the first time in 15 years, the Labor party has emerged as the largest faction and, together with other parties that oppose a government led by the Likud with the right-wing, religious, and ultraorthodox parties, we consolidated a buffer against such a government, with the margin of an additional Knesset seat. This means there is no possibility of anyone but Labor forming a government. [applause]

The change or turnabout has created a new feeling in the public, a feeling of hope and faith that things can be done differently—that things can be different and better. This places a great and serious responsibility on us. The public may have tremendously high expectations because it has really suffered enough already. The public wants to see a change in virtually all aspects of life: in the political field, but primarily in what is happening in the country and in the government's performance. The public wants to know whether the government will achieve the goals it presented to the people.

If we do not implement what we promised the people, if we do not achieve the goals, then we will not be able to retain the trust and confidence of the majority of the public. I believe that we have the ability to do this if we know how to adhere to our commitments and know how to overcome the real problems without getting bogged down in minor issues. We have assumed a great responsibility. I admit that I had hoped for a broader coalition. We could not attain that, however, because we tried to bridge between the positions of Meretz and Tzomet. That has never been done before, except in the national unity government when we [Labor and Likud] neutralized each other.

Today, the guidelines have been laid down, and the coalition agreements have been presented to the Knesset. The law stipulates that they have to be sent there 24 hours before the government's presentation. The government includes, in a coalition framework, the Labor party in the center, Meretz on one side, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] on the other. This is an attempt at integration, which, if successful, could facilitate the implementation of our policy and of our national order of priorities, and also prevent polarity in various fields and between the various sectors of Israeli society. Each of us should know how to respect the opinions of others, even when there are disagreements, without the members of one party hastening to attack the members of another.

We will be tested on the following issues: our ability to advance the process of making peace—first and foremost between us and the Palestinians in the territories, within the framework of what was agreed upon and has already been implemented, the Madrid formula, with preference, as I said before, to the Palestinians, but also to continue to talk with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Second, we must change the order of national priorities. Verily, we must concentrate our financial resources in a war against unemployment and in an effort to resolve social problems, even at the expense of other issues, with the exception of security.

Third, we will have to prove that this government functions properly. During the election campaign, we attacked the Likud for being cut off from the people, for the prime minister's inability to function, and for the government's inability to act in concert. If we prove incapable of presenting a functioning government that can act decisively, without being preoccupied with internal squabbles, then we will have failed to meet the public's expectations of us.

Fourth, we must change the electoral system in order, first of all, to bring about direct elections for the prime minister by the public, so that we do not find ourselves bogged down in the same old negotiating procedures that the current national political system dictates and imposes upon us.

To our credit, this time we took a simple and direct path. First of all, we placed our guidelines on the table. There were no secrets, no covert or illegal deals. Only afterwards did we begin discussing portfolios. I will not say that portfolios are not important to the various parties or their leaders; despite all the difficulties, however, we acted openly with all the documents on the table. We did not repeat certain phenomena from the past. The coalition numbers 62 Knesset Members [MK's]. It will have the outside support of another five MK's, who have also received a document clarifying the positions of Labor's platform.

Tomorrow, the 13th Knesset will convene. Tomorrow, we shall present the government, its guidelines, and the coalition agreements. This will be a milestone. A lot depends on us, such as whether this will mark a change and the fulfillment of the public's hope. I believe this is possible. This depends solely on us. We have the power to decide whether we will exploit the great opportunities. I understand that the party faction will convene tomorrow and choose its candidate for Knesset speaker. We have no intention of letting any other party choose the Knesset speaker [applause]. As the largest party, we have the right and the obligation to guarantee that our candidate will manage the Knesset affairs, after he is chosen according to the party's constitution. [applause]

We shall then present the government. I believe that tomorrow, a new chapter can start in the life of the nation—in fixing its priorities, its actions, and its behavior. I really believe that if we all act together and

concentrate on what counts, the real test will be the government's achievements and the image projected by the government's functioning. The question is: What will the government be able to offer—in the short time of several months, or perhaps in a longer period—to the many people who gave us their confidence, especially in the development towns and the poorer neighborhoods, on the problems of employment and education, while at the same time promoting peace. The advancing of peace while maintaining security—because there is no peace that does not give security, and there is no meaning to peace if it does not bring with it security to the nation and its citizens.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Central Committee members and the many thousands of activists throughout the country who worked so hard and proudly and faithfully for the Labor party, for bringing about results that enable us and only us to form a government. You all deserve congratulations on a job well done. Thank you very much. [applause]

Rabin Announces Labor Party Ministers

TA1207164992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1506 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Rabin's presentation of Labor ministers to the party's Central Committee at Tel Aviv's Cinerama hall—live; applause after each minister's name]

[Text] I will read out the names of the ministers in the government that will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow. I will read out only the names of the ministers who represent Labor. The Central Committee does not confirm ministers who do not represent Labor.

After some debate we have agreed on 13 ministers, including the prime minister-designate. We will not deal today with deputy ministers, even if there have been reports or rumors, because deputy ministers must first receive the approval of the government and there has to be an announcement to the Knesset on their appointment. That can be done only after the government is convened and following at least one cabinet session. There will also be a number of ministries, at present two, whose future has not yet been decided, and they remain open due to the possibility that one or more parties might still join. I am referring to the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry and the Religious Affairs Ministry.

I will now read out the names of the ministers:

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. As long as there is no appointment of a minister, according to the law the prime minister becomes the minister, which could make me the religious affairs minister. I would ask the people whose names I read out to come up and sit here on the podium.

Shim'on Peres, foreign minister.

Yisra'el Qeysar, transportation minister.

Binyamin Ben-Eli'azer, construction and housing minister.

Uzi Bar'am, minister of tourism. Bar'am is absent due to illness.

Mikha Harish, industry and trade minister.

David Liba'i, justice minister.

Ora Namir, environment minister.

Ya'akov Trur, agriculture minister.

Hayim Ramon, health minister.

Avraham Shohat, finance minister.

Moshe Shahal, minister of communications and police.

Shim'on Shetrit, economics minister.

As things look today, the government that will be established will be one of the smallest ever, with 17 ministers.

There was and still is an intention to appoint deputy ministers. The matter is still uncoordinated with the coalition partners, and so I did not make an announcement. It is hard for me to say when it will be decided. Thank you.

Further Reportage on Formation of New Government

Meretz Names Appointees to Ministries

TA1007111592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Meretz has announced that Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein will be minister of energy and infrastructure and MK Ya'ir Tzaban will be the minister for immigrant absorption. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that MK Ran Kohen will probably be a deputy minister.

Tzomet To Vote Against Labor Government

TA1107072492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Refa'el Eytan said that there is a total breach between him and Yitzhaq Rabin and that in the Knesset Tzomet will vote against the Labor government. He said the dispute is one of principle and runs deep. He believes Labor's agreement with Meretz means that a blatantly leftist government will be set up. Tzomet will be shamed if it joins it and will not be able to prevent decisions that will endanger parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Rabin offered Eytan the police affairs portfolio with wide-ranging powers, including responsibility for the security services, but he turned it down outright.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Eytan made the remarks this morning to a delegation of Jewish settlement leaders from the Golan Heights who conferred with him at a Nazareth garage while he was

working on the engine of his car. The settlement representatives, who included Yehuda Wohlman, Sami Bar-Lev, and Eli Malka, tried to convince Refa'el Eytan that Tzomet should join the government because it can prevent the danger of concessions on the Golan Heights. Eytan said their remarks were not convincing and that they do not understand that even if two Tzomet ministers are in the government they will not be able to prevent other ministers from deciding to make concessions. Labor wants Tzomet as a smokescreen for moves by the left.

List of Ministers Reported

TA1107164492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Shim'on Peres will be foreign minister in the new government, the current structure of the position will not change, and the autonomy negotiations will be conducted by Yitzhaq Rabin together with Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres and Rabin agreed on these matters in a meeting today.

In the meeting, Shim'on Peres asked that Nisim Zvili be appointed minister because of his abilities and because he was elected among the top 10 in the primaries. Rabin, however, did not respond to the request.

The disagreement between Rabin and Labor Secretary Mikha Harish was settled when Harish was promised an active role in the government.

About the Tzomet affair, our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that, in a final effort to get Refa'el Eytan into the government, Yitzhaq Rabin is now offering Eytan the police portfolio, with responsibility for internal security and for preparing the home front for war. According to the offer, responsibility for the Home Front Command will be taken from the Defense Ministry and given to the Police Affairs Ministry. Our correspondent has learned this from senior sources in both parties. The efforts continue to arrange a meeting between Eytan and Rabin tomorrow. In Labor, they say that even if the talks with Tzomet are not concluded by the time the government is sworn in, they will continue later.

Labor Central Committee is scheduled to convene tomorrow afternoon to hear Yitzhaq Rabin present the list of ministers. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz has obtained some details of the list, as it stands now: finance minister—Avraham Shohat; construction and housing minister—Binyamin Ben-Eli'azer; agriculture minister—probably Ya'aqov Tzur; Yisra'el Qeysar will probably receive the transportation portfolio; and Hayim Ramon will be allocated the health portfolio. Ora Namir, Shim'on Shetrit, and Moshe Shahal will also be appointed ministers, but the distribution of portfolios between them is not yet clear.

It is still not clear whether David Liba'i or 'Uzi Bar'am will be members of the Cabinet. The role of Knesset

speaker has not yet been decided on either. It seems that Mordekhay Gur will be given the chair of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Contacts may be held this evening between representatives of Labor and United Torah Jewry.

Rabin Interviewed on Composition

TA1107195192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Interview with Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Rabin by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] ['Azran] Good evening, Mr. Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening.

['Azran] Allow me first to try to put some order in the coalition talks. Refa'el Eytan has said there is an absolute rift between you and that the guidelines offered shame Tzomet's principles. Is there still a possibility that Tzomet will join your coalition?

[Rabin] Allow me to explain to you my primary guidelines in forming the government. The elections for the 13th Knesset gave 61 seats to Labor, Meretz, and other parties opposing the Likud rule. That means a government must be led by us. The other thing was the need to bridge the gap between a leftist element, such as Meretz, and the component that believes in Greater Israel, such as Tzomet. That has never been done in Israel before.

Indeed, there was a national unity government, but it was more a government of mutual neutralization. I sought this bridge in every way. I very much wanted Refa'el Eytan and Tzomet members to join the government. To my regret, an unpleasant incident took place. I believe Eytan could have been, and deserves to be, education and culture minister. Nevertheless, the incident took place due to coalition considerations and because Meretz insisted on that portfolio. I am sorry that this has happened.

['Azran] Could it be corrected if anything happens and things change?

[Rabin] Let me tell you that I spoke with Eytan on the phone on the way here. Our meeting scheduled for tomorrow will not take place. We will wait for developments over the next few days. The government will be presented with the 62 Knesset members. I talked with him on Friday. We only discussed matters of substance, not portfolios. All the reports that some offer or another was made regarding portfolios, beyond what was discussed in the past, are far from true. I believe that the government that will be presented in the Knesset on 13 July is one that bridges the religious, ultra-Orthodox, and leftists sectors, if I may use that expression, with Labor being the central axis of the coalition.

[Azran] Do I understand correctly that Tzomet is out of the coalition at this stage?

[Rabin] At this stage, yes.

[Azran] Allow me, Sir, two small questions of clarification: Are United Torah Jewry [UTJ] and the National Religious Party [NRP] still on their way to joining the coalition?

[Rabin] I believe there is a difference. The way I see it, UTJ is closer than the NRP because the NRP has become extreme in its political stands. In fact, the NRP today is almost more right-wing than the Likud. That is why, at present, I believe that the UTJ will join us, and I will make every possible effort to get Tzomet to join us as well.

[Azran] If so, for whom do you reserve the religious affairs portfolio, which you hold according to the rider to the coalition agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]?

[Rabin] At this stage, I will indeed hold on to it, but we will see what the future brings. We must reserve options for the expansion of the government.

As a government, after we are presented and win the Knesset's confidence, we will face the enormous expectations of the public. The public feels that a change has taken place. The feeling was that large parts of the public simply sighed with relief. Expectations of us are sky high. It will be difficult for us to meet those expectations, but we will make every effort to keep our promise, to enhance peacemaking, and mainly to change the order of national priorities—to divert the resources that until now were invested in less important areas. We will try to obtain resources from abroad. We will deal with unemployment, health, and education problems. Today, the majority of Israelis prefer solutions to those problems rather than another settlement five km from the Green Line.

[Azran] We will return to those points later, but you spoke of a change and of new norms. Already in the negotiations, something occurred that we perhaps fail to understand. You signed an agreement on guidelines while attaching riders that, so it seems to us, actually nullify the guidelines.

[Rabin] Speaking of new norms, I believe we indeed introduced new norms with the way we conducted the negotiations. We started with the guidelines. Everything was placed on the table. Everything was clear. We did not offend rabbis and spiritual leaders by going to their courts in the wee hours of the morning. Everything was properly and overtly discussed. There are always riders added in which a party reserves itself some freedoms. They do not, however, contradict the guidelines in any way.

[Azran] Let us take Meretz, for example. Today Meretz may express stands regarding the Palestinian state that....

[Rabin, interrupting] It may present stands but, when it comes to voting in the Knesset, it is obligated by coalition discipline. If Eytan and Tzomet were in, they could have expressed stands representing the Greater Israel concept in a cabinet debate. When it comes to Knesset votes, following a cabinet resolution, they have to accept coalition discipline. I make a distinction between the right to insist on the stands the parties promised to the voters in their platforms and the commitment to the coalition guidelines.

[Azran] I believe that is mere semantics. For example, the issue of settlements, and I quote: Decisions on the establishment of new settlements or the significant expansion of existing ones will be endorsed by the government. In light of this, what is an insignificant expansion, or what is the difference between the two?

[Rabin] Look, we are not going to dry out the settlements, as someone has said. Jews live in Judea and Samaria. If a child is born and they need to build another house, we will not prevent it. We, however, have no intention of providing the current level of aid and investment in them or of setting up new settlements in the regions of the political settlements.

The resources the government invested there over the past 30 months—whether directly or through guarantees to buy 100 percent of any construction—and the massive aid that was given created a situation where a house in 'Etz Efrayim, situated seven km from the Green Line, costs almost half as much as a similar house in Rosh Ha'ayin. We will change that through a new classification of development regions—in accordance with the security problems. I speak of the confrontation lines, the Jordan Rift Valley, the Golan Heights, and certainly Jerusalem—which is above any political or security consideration. At the same time, we will direct the resources that we will save, and especially those that will come from abroad, to deal with the real problems of 3.9 million Jews and the rest of Israel's non-Jewish residents who do not live in the territories.

[Azran] One last question. What will be your first act as prime minister to promote the peace talks?

[Rabin] After I have studied the issue and gotten settled, I will see to the promotion of the peace talks. I believe that, by the end of this month or early next month, I will meet the U.S. decisionmakers to examine both the level of U.S. aid and the possibility of moving the processes forward, primarily with the Palestinian residents of the territories.

[Azran] Mr. Rabin, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Ministerial Appointments Reported

TA1207051092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0403 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Report by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A list of ministerial appointments compiled by Yitzhaq Rabin will be submitted to the Labor Central Committee tonight. Here is the list:

Yitzhaq Rabin is the prime minister and defense minister, and he retains the religious affairs portfolio.

Shim'on Peres is the foreign minister. The perimeters of Peres' authority were defined in a meeting between Peres and Rabin on Saturday, and it was agreed that the autonomy negotiations will be conducted by Yitzhaq Rabin, with Shim'on Peres' cooperation.

Avraham Shohat is the finance minister, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer the construction and housing minister, and Hayim Ramon the health minister. Yisra'el Qeysar is the next transportation minister. Mikha Harish, after a near rift between him and Rabin, receives the industry and trade portfolio. Shim'on Shetrit is the minister of economy and social development, a new function in the Government of Israel. Moshe Shahal is the police and communications minister, the police portfolio being still held for Tzomet.

Ya'akov Tzur is the agriculture minister. Tzur was not elected to the Knesset, but Rabin preferred him despite heavy pressures applied by various Labor circles in favor of Nisim Zvili. Zvili's main champion was the Moshavim Movement. Ora Namir is the ecology and environmental protection minister. David Liba'i is the justice minister and 'Uzi Bar'am the tourism minister.

In Meretz, the senior coalition partner, Shulamit Aloni is the education minister, Ya'ir Tzaban—as decided by Meretz on Friday—is the immigrant absorption minister, and Amnon Rubinstein the energy and infrastructure minister. [passage omitted]

Tzomet Leader—Party May Join Coalition

TA1207091592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Tzomet prospective Knesset Member Dr. Gonen Segev believes that his movement should join the coalition. Speaking with our correspondent, Razi Barqay, he said that Yitzhaq Rabin's clarifications regarding the issues of autonomy and construction starts in the territories are not satisfactory. At the same time, he has no doubt that Labor will be willing to walk an extra mile toward Tzomet. Segev said that he is not in the habit of giving in to Refa'el Eytan's wishes and that he will make his stand clear in the movement's secretariat, due to convene in about an hour.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 12 July adds that Segev told the radio that "it is very probable that Tzomet will vote for Rabin's government tomorrow while being out of coalition. He added that it is probable that, if satisfactory clarifications are made, Tzomet eventually will join the government."]

Gur Named Deputy Defense Minister

TA1207093492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Mordekhay Gur has been appointed deputy defense minister. Speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay this morning, he said that his office will not become another link in the contacts between the chief of staff and the defense minister. He added: My office will not ask to be updated about every event, but it will not become just an errand boy either. He further said: Rabin and I know each other, therefore there was no need for us to distribute authorities between us and there will be no blunders.

At the meeting he held with Rabin this morning, it was decided that Mordekhay Gur will take part in the inner cabinet deliberations.

Tzomet Decision Not To Join 'Final'

TA1207132092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Tzomet's designated Knesset Members [MK's] have decided that their party will not join the government. Following a four-hour meeting, MK Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that the decision was final. He explained that the decision stemmed from the inability to reach agreement on Tzomet's most important principles. He said Tzomet could not participate in a government whose guidelines were completely incompatible with its own. Refa'el Eytan once again denied that the entire dispute was merely a disagreement over the distribution of portfolios.

Rabin on Negotiations, Peres Appointment

TA1207182092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1605 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Interview with Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Raz at the Cinerama hall in Tel Aviv on 12 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Raz] Are you sure of all the coalition partners now? Is there no danger that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will drop out or not show up for the Knesset vote tomorrow?

[Rabin] I take them at their word. They signed a coalition agreement with us, in full view of the cameras, in accordance with a decision by the Council of Torah Sages. So, I take them at their word.

[Raz] Did you check this matter today, in view of reports that some instruction was issued by the most prominent rabbis of the ultra-Orthodox sector not to join this government?

[Rabin] I did not check. I do not think it is my duty to check the signature of an honorable Israeli party. I assume all is well.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, this afternoon you had to compromise a rule you had set for yourself for distributing portfolios: You gave in to Meretz, which will now have another minister, a fourth one.

[Rabin] I did not give in to Meretz, nor will it have a fourth minister. We decided to give them a ministerial portfolio, but without the rank of minister.

[Raz] You are referring to the science and technology portfolio. So Meretz will have only three ministers then?

[Rabin] That is so, indeed.

[Raz] Yitzhaq Rabin will be both prime minister and defense minister; why?

[Rabin] Under the current circumstances, in the hope of accelerating the peace process, especially the negotiations with the Palestinians, I attach importance to a link between the political process and developments in the territories.

[Raz] Do you intend to quit your duties as defense minister the moment the political process is over and autonomy is implemented?

[Rabin] I am not making an ironclad statement now, but that is a possibility. I believe that my familiarity with defense issues will enable me to fill the positions of both prime minister and defense minister.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 12 July reports that Rabin, when asked whether the two positions were not too much for one man, replied that he will be defense minister "at least for the first year," and he added that "for the purpose of coordination between what's going on in the territories to the peace process and vice versa, it will be better that it will be in one hand."] [passage omitted]

[Raz] On the personal level—concerning your very complex relations with Shim'on Peres—will you manage to cooperate with each other, with Peres serving in a very senior position?

[Rabin] I believe so and hope so.

[Raz] What will be the degree of his involvement in promoting autonomy?

[Rabin] If you check on how matters are conducted today, you will find that the Prime Minister's Office handles bilateral negotiations, including the autonomy issue, while the Foreign Ministry handles the multilateral negotiations. I think this will be the case in our government too, more or less.

[Raz] When do you intend to resume the negotiations for promoting autonomy?

[Rabin] We will first establish the government, and then, after we hold a discussion, I will tell you. [passage omitted]

Letters of Commitment to Arab Parties

TA1207184292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Labor today handed HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] letters of commitment on political and social matters. Knesset Member Moshe Shahal handed the letters to the leaders of both parties.

In its letter to HADASH, Labor undertakes to ensure human rights in the territories, to advance the rights of the Arab population of Israel, to try to raise the minimum wage, and to advance the rights of women. In the meeting, MK Tamar Gozansky said that HADASH would do everything to make sure the Likud does not return to power, but would not automatically support all the coalition's decisions.

In the letter to the ADP, Labor undertakes to promote peace and work for social issues, but mainly to work for equality for Israel's Arab and Druze inhabitants. ADP leader 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah called for more Israeli Arabs in government institutions. He also stressed that autonomy in the territories should be viewed as merely a transitional stage.

Shamir Interviewed on New Government, Retirement

TA1107083592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan in Shamir's Jerusalem office; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, this is perhaps one of the last times you will be called that. Do you think you will miss it, that you regret it?

[Shamir] I will not miss it, and I will not regret it, personally. That is the reality.

[Golan] What does someone like you think about at your age, 77, when you retire after operating in the Lehi [prestate underground], the Mosad, and being prime minister for seven years? Do you have a feeling of relief?

[Shamir] I have a lot of satisfaction. My time was not wasted. Something happened, and I must say that I am especially pleased with the recent years, in which I was prime minister. I believe that the latest years, those of the government I set up in 1990, were very good, very fruitful, and very useful.

[Golan] So how did what you call the accident occur? The people did not see....

[Shamir, interrupting] That is why it was an accident. The police investigate each accident, and they do not always find the reason. It can be investigated, and it will be investigated. There are obviously reasons, but at this moment they are not so interesting. Still, the satisfaction

remains. I believe that we—if I can say so, my government—leave the country, relatively speaking, in a very good state. Of course, we would like it to be even better, but I believe that the State of Israel, the Jewish state, was never, in all aspects, in a better situation than now.

[Golan] That is perhaps not so true of the Likud. Do you not think that what will happen now with all the infighting over the succession and the power struggles is bad?

[Shamir] That is something else. There are problems in the Likud. I hope a way will be found to start from the beginning to act in the newly formed circumstances. The Likud will find its way.

[Golan] What is your opinion about the issue the Likud ministers are considering: how to elect the leader of the movement, the next candidate for prime minister? Should he be elected now as chairman of the movement?

[Shamir] There is a problem, and there are points in favor of both positions. On the one hand, it is hard to elect someone who may have to be prime minister only in another four years. On the other hand, some say that if he is not chosen now as candidate for prime minister, then as soon as he is elected, an all-out war will break out for a post that will become actual only in another four years. We will, however, find a way out.

[Golan] Will you participate in finding a solution?

[Shamir] If I can offer advice. In general, though, I decided not to become involved in any conflict over who will replace me inside the Likud.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, one of the main things you dealt with this past year was the peace process—the Madrid conference and the direct talks with the Arabs. Did you really intend to stretch the autonomy talks over 10 years, as was published in MA'ARIV recently?

[Shamir] God forbid, it is total rubbish, total rubbish. Nobody considered that for the simple reason that I see no contradiction, and I never saw any contradiction, between autonomy and Jewish settlement in the Judea, Samaria, and Gaza parts of Eretz Yisra'el. So why would I need to stretch it out? Even years ago, when negotiations on the Camp David accords were being conducted, they did not view autonomy as contrary to settlement. It was clear to us, to the late Mr. Begin, that Jewish settlement will also continue when there is autonomy.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, you never agreed to territorial concessions, something you stressed a great deal. You said Greater Yisra'el is small and that there is nothing to give to others. Every few years, however, somebody in the Likud leadership suddenly reaches more compromising conclusions. Many years ago it was Ezer Weizman, and more recently it is Moshe Arens, who said that he is prepared to give up the Gaza Strip, and that he was never an advocate of Greater Israel.

[Shamir] I very much regret that, but the fact that it happens does not surprise me because it is not a position acceptable to all.

[Golan] But at least to everyone in the Likud.

[Shamir] Okay, but it is not a position that is easy to fight for. Sometimes, when people see that public opinion is put off by that slogan, that idea, then they perhaps start to search for compromises. It is clear to me, however, and I am proud of it, that this government put that issue on the political map in the clearest possible way. Today, it is clear to all, and especially to the United States, that a large part of the Jewish public in Israel, of the Jewish people, believes that all of Eretz Yisra'el belongs to the people of Israel.

[Golan] Would it not be true to say that in view of the election results a large section believes that, but the majority of the people in fact does not?

[Shamir] That would not be correct because if you add up the votes within various frameworks in favor of the Greater Yisra'el idea, then they would definitely not be less than those who oppose it. That can be proved.

[Golan] Arithmetically?

[Shamir] Yes.

[Golan] But the fact is that a movement like Tehiya, for whom the Eretz Yisra'el slogan was virtually the only message to the public, totally disappeared from the scene.

[Shamir] But the votes were given.

[Golan] They received some 33,500 votes.

[Shamir] That is a lot. They did not cross the electability threshold because it was raised, but they did receive 33,000 votes, and they have to be taken into account. The votes for other lists like Rabbi Levinger and Ge'ulat Yisra'el should also be taken into account, although they will not influence the balance of forces in the Knesset.

[Golan] In other words, you do not accept the fact that, based on the election results, more people want a new order of national priorities and therefore voted for Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Shamir] No, I would not say that anyone accepted that slogan, at least, not a majority. Even if I consider the many thousands who came from the former USSR and because of their absorption hardships voted against the Likud, I do think they really are opposed to Greater Israel and support territorial compromise.

[Golan] We have already said that the Likud is preparing for a leadership struggle. The question is when you plan to retire from the post of Likud chairman and from the Knesset.

[Shamir] It will not take long. I would like matters to be more or less settled first. I would not like to leave the

movement in disorder or in an all-out war. I would like to see it moving along an organized path, which will lead the movement to its rejuvenation on its way to the struggle for regaining power.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, what will you do when you leave the prime minister's bureau, the main focus of power in Israel, without telephone callers, without all the responsibility? What will you do when you move into your new home in Tel Aviv's Sharett Street?

[Shamir] I still have a lot to do. I am sure I will not be bored. I have a full schedule. I will have to write.

[Golan] Are you writing an autobiography?

[Shamir] Yes, a book about my activity, not so much about my biography. I might have to continue doing that. I will also be active politically, although not in official posts. I will read things I do not have time for, finish learning things that I still do not have good knowledge about. I will not lack things to do.

[Golan] In the book you are writing, will you also disclose all the secret episodes from your activity in Lehi, the Mosad, stories so far not known?

[Shamir] Perhaps.

[Golan] To conclude, Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin will probably present his new government Monday. Do you want to congratulate him, give him some good advice?

[Shamir] I will make a speech in the Knesset on that and express my opinion on the direction, the contents.

[Golan] Do you have any advice for him, for the person who is going to sit in that difficult spot?

[Shamir] First, he does not need my advice, and had he listened to my advice, I do not know whether we would have gone through that election struggle. Each goes his own way.

[Golan] What is most important for somebody elected prime minister of Israel? What is the most important characteristic he needs?

[Shamir] It is hard to say. I believe that first he must be convinced that everything he does is right and serves the State of Israel.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. I wish you and your wife good health and a long life.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir Addresses Last Cabinet Meeting

TA1207093592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0720 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's farewell address at the cabinet meeting in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...at this point, I gain nothing from uttering praise. I merely thought that for our own sake, for the sake of our feelings, and for the sake of historians, I should deliver a brief summary of our actions and achievements over the past two years.

I will divide the political issue into two: First, the peace process, which is the crowning achievement of our political activity; and second, the expansion of the state's political ties with other countries with the aim of strengthening the state's standing and enhancing its prestige.

After a series of intensive talks with the U.S. Government which included several successive visits to Israel and the region by the U.S. secretary of state, we reached an agreement to launch simultaneous negotiations with our neighbors—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—and with the Arab representatives of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza areas under the auspices of the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, which still existed at that time.

The terms of the negotiations met our requirements. There were direct negotiations between us and the Arab parties without the participation or intervention of any third party, and the representation of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza residents did not include either East Jerusalem residents or Arabs from the diaspora, namely, the PLO. These terms were achieved through vigorous and strenuous negotiations, in which most of our demands were met.

The process was launched in November 1990 [as heard] in Madrid, and after that five rounds of bilateral talks were held in Washington, as well as two rounds of multilateral talks. Before the last round of bilateral talks ended, we and the Arab side agreed to pursue the bilateral negotiations in Rome on a yet-to-be-determined date. The procedural and substantive foundations for the continuation of the process were laid down in these encounters, which adhered to the agreed-upon conditions. The cosponsors did not intervene in the talks, and on several occasions praised our representatives' efficient and honorable activities. No unbiased observer could fail to observe the important historical (?effort we) made toward peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Now for the second point: In the period under review, (?we witnessed) an expansion of our ties with other countries, including some with which we never have maintained any ties whatsoever. This plenitude, this expansion, should be attributed to our stands in the course of the Gulf war and to the start of the peace process. For the first time in Israel's political history, full diplomatic ties were established with countries such as China and India, as well as with the states that succeeded the USSR. Moreover, ties were renewed with numerous countries that had severed relations with us in the past. In this sphere, the revocation of the infamous UN resolution equating Zionism with racism should be noted.

In the field of aliyah, this government was privileged to witness a mass immigration of about 400,000 Jews from the USSR [Unidentified voice says: "430,000," to which Shamir replies: "All right"] and the almost full exodus of the Ethiopian Jewry in Operation Moses, in which we brought about 15,000 Jews from Ethiopia in 36 hours, putting an end to the tragedy of split families. The past months have brought a slowdown in the rate of immigration from the USSR, due largely to the newcomers' employment difficulties. It is true that many immigrants have not found satisfactory gainful employment yet, but the government has taken numerous steps to create employment. In 1991, for instance, we furnished more than 110,000 jobs, and we intended to do the same in 1992. Immigration from the USSR stands a good chance of growing in the near future.

In the field of defense, the intifadah and terrorist attacks decreased significantly thanks to special efforts by the defense establishment, including the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the other security forces. The state of security improved beyond recognition. The defense policy adopted during the Gulf war reduced the number of Israel's casualties, prevented dangerous entanglements, and greatly enhanced the state's reputation in the international arena.

The economy: Despite the objectively impeding factors—such as the growing immigrant absorption, defense expenditures and the worsening economic conditions throughout the world—inflation decreased, foreign currency reserves remained stable, [words indistinct] significantly, Israel's national debt diminished, better conditions for investment were created, and Israel enjoyed [words indistinct] of six to seven percent over the past two years. The privatization of government-owned companies continued.

In the sphere of settlement, the settlement drive in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el continued. A Jewish majority was achieved [words indistinct], and the Jewish community in the Jerusalem area and in the areas of Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza grew considerably. The Jewish hold on the soil of Eretz Yisra'el strengthened.

In the sphere of housing, the problem of the shortage of apartments for immigrants and newlyweds was almost entirely solved. In an unprecedented, brilliant enterprise, tens of thousands of houses were built throughout the country with extraordinary speed.

In the sphere of infrastructure, impressive projects were carried out: Streets, roads, and bridges were built, and the impressive development of railroad lines to improve passenger traffic and transportation in general was launched.

As for tourism, it grew in the year following the Gulf war and is still growing.

The social sphere: A far-reaching reform in the public health system was launched, toward which preliminary steps have been made. Serious amendments to ease the

burden on mortgage payers were introduced. We engaged in a war on drugs by placing the issue on the national agenda.

In the sphere of minorities, a lot was done to raise the standard of living in the towns and villages inhabited by minorities through larger budgets and equality in municipal authorities.

In the sphere of legislation and justice, numerous measures were taken to ensure the strict observance of the rule of the law. New basic laws pertaining to human dignity, personal freedom, and freedom of employment were legislated.

To sum up, I have to note that the itemization submitted herewith is not complete, and every minister could add abundant details from his own sphere. Nevertheless, members of this cabinet can be proud of their two-year-old government's deeds and achievements. I doubt that any other Israeli Government ever has made such achievements. Whether compiling or reading this summation, one is hard put to believe that indeed we have been privileged to achieve so much. May the people and the State of Israel enjoy similar, and greater, achievements in the future. We hope that, God willing, the people of Israel will prosper and bloom.

My greetings to the cabinet members on this day of the summation of our work. I wish each of us success in his chosen field. I thank everyone for their cooperation and for the respect and friendship that accompanied our common endeavor. Thank you very much.

Arens Interviewed on Retirement, Defense Issues

TA1107111892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0705 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dalya Ya'iri and military correspondent Karmela Menashe—place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ya'iri] This is our last meeting with you as defense minister. We would like to ask you about your last days in the Defense Ministry, about being a senior politician. You are retiring in several days. Yitzhaq Shamir is retiring. It appears to be the end of the Shamir-Arens camp. Some people in the Likud are still squaring accounts with you and are angry with you. They say that it is a pity you left before they could throw you out. Others say you deserted a ship which, although not sinking, is shaken. What you have to say to all of them and to yourself?

[Arens] Some regret my going, and some are angry. I am in the middle. I am going. I do not think I have to explain beyond what I have already said. I saw politics as service, although it sounds strange and it is hard to believe. It was not easy. It was also, of course, an honor, and after 18 years I believe that with a clear conscience I can close the book on that chapter and open a new chapter in my life. I have a clear conscience about my service to the state. I

was defense minister and foreign minister, I was ambassador in Washington, and chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. I dealt with the minorities, which I believe is one of the most important tasks in the country, although it is not considered that. I definitely have a clear conscience about my work for the movement. I was chairman of the campaign four years ago, I led the movement to victory in the national elections. I led the movement to victory in municipal elections. I believe I did everything asked of me and I demanded of myself, and I do not think there is any reason for anybody in the movement to have any complaints about me. I have here a list of letters and cables, and hundreds came to my house to express friendship and esteem.

[Menashe] There is a feeling that you are leaving the ministry with much more ease than other ministers.

[Arens] I do not know who the other ministers are. I am definitely leaving without any difficulty. In many ways, it lifts the burden from me. I do not have to tell you how heavy the responsibility is here, almost too heavy. The work here is hard, seven days a week, almost day and night. The day I cut myself off from it—from the reports, the calls, the link with what is happening in the field—there will definitely be a feeling of relief. You simply transfer it to somebody else. I hope he will be good, because he will now have to carry the burden on his shoulders.

[Ya'iri] On your retirement, you have made remarks such as: Gaza is superfluous, or Gaza is not as important for Israel's security as is Judea and Samaria. That was in fact the first time that has been heard coming from you. Why did you chose that timing, and did not say so previously when you might have been able to do something for the peace process?

[Arens] I believe that anybody who knows me closely in the political arena has known for years my view that Gaza does not have the same strategic importance for the State of Israel as Judea and Samaria. I also said those things to the prime minister. He was not surprised to hear them over the years. But I did not think that, as long as I am a minister, it is right to open a public debate with the prime minister on an issue on which we differ. I know that there are ministers who stayed in the government and conducted public debates, sometimes relatively sharp ones, with their ministerial colleagues. In my opinion, that is contrary to the type of government we have. All the members of government have collective responsibility, so each minister has to act according to the policy decided on by the government. I believe it is wrong for a minister to conduct a public debate with the government or the prime minister.

[Ya'iri] This week you bid farewell to the permanent forum dealing with Judea and Samaria. Did the data presented satisfy you?

[Arens] I think that they have to satisfy us all. The intifadah as I knew it does not in actual fact exist today.

We say it takes on a certain form, then changes, but what we have now is not the same. The mass disturbances that led to a very negative public perception of Israel in the world, which brought very heavy political pressure on us from countries around the world—including the United States—all that is no longer the case. In my view, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did an excellent job. We saw that the armed element, the terrorists in the past—who started to comprehend that the intifadah is no longer what it was—returned in place of the mass opposition, which they were no longer capable of arousing in the Arab street. We are also dealing with that form of terrorism, and I believe we are doing so efficiently. We all recall the wave of terror in the territories leading up to the Madrid conference in an effort to torpedo the peace process. We took the matter in hand, invested the right forces, developed the right tactics, and the facts speak for themselves.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, six soldiers have been killed recently due to negligence and failure to abide by instructions and orders. Is there a problem of control in the IDF?

[Arens] I think there is a disciplinary problem in the IDF. When such things happen, we investigate whether regulations or orders were violated or did not suit the case. In too many incidents, we see that the people deviated from regulations and orders. We must conclude from the tragic circumstances in which soldiers have been killed as a result of an accident, or perhaps negligence, that there are probably many more cases in which actions are not taken according to regulations and orders, but we do not know about them.

[Menashe] At what level does it start? Where does the problem begin?

[Arens] I believe that the IDF, from top to bottom, all levels, has to do something about that issue.

[Menashe] Including the chief of staff?

[Arens] From the chief of staff to the private.

[Menashe] Relations between the chief of staff's office and the defense minister's bureau were sometimes quite tense.

[Arens] I, for one, did not feel great tension. It is possible that the other side did, but that feeling was not passed on to me. It is natural to have differences of opinion. It would not be natural if there were no differences, but what must be absolutely clear is the superiority of the political echelon and the fact that the military echelon, including the chief of staff, must act under orders, instructions, and policy decided by the minister, not the other way round.

[Menashe] Is that how it worked?

[Arens] I think that is how it worked. In general, I would say that it worked that way in all cases, but we had too

many cases in which senior officers spoke in the media on subjects that are not meant for media declarations by the military echelon.

[Menashe] The decision by the chief of staff to divulge on television the special units operating in the territories was contrary to your opinion and was made when you were abroad. As far as is known, you reprimanded Lieutenant General Baraq.

[Arens] I believe it would be imprecise to say it was done contrary to my opinion. It was done without my permission. I was abroad, and I was not asked for permission, therefore in that respect it was wrong.

[Menashe] It seems that you place very high importance on relations with the United States. To what extent did the Dotan affair impair relations with the United States?

[Arens] You are right, I extend very high importance to those relations, and I believe all Israelis do. You do not have to be an expert on the United States to understand that it is an important component of the fabric of Israel's image in the entire world and in facing the Arab world. It is clear to me that we have still not heard the last of the Dotan affair.

[Menashe] Do you think there is room to permit the Americans to interrogate Dotan?

[Arens] I do not want to tell you anything clear cut on that. We are currently communicating with the Americans on that issue, and we would prefer that it not be done. The legal people tell me there are no real precedents for interrogating people from another country, people who worked in our civil service. I believe, however, that in the final analysis we will find a solution. But there is no doubt that the affair caused significant damage, not only to the State of Israel itself, and not only to the United States, but also to Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Menashe] On the Arrow missile, are you pleased with the decision on that project?

[Arens] I am. I believe that all Israelis should be because it is clear that in the face of all the dangers we find over the horizon—missiles with who knows what warheads—we must be adequately prepared. A system capable of intercepting such missiles, and the Arrow is such a system, is a vital—not exclusive, but vital—part of such preparedness. I think everybody understands that we would not like to be once again facing the situation we faced in the Gulf war when missiles were launched against us and hit our cities while we were incapable of doing anything about them.

[Menashe] Still, is there a U.S. committee here to study the advisability of the project?

[Arens] No, the committee is currently here on behalf of the U.S. General Accounting Office, and they did not come to check the desirability of the project, but technology and transfer of technology. I think they will learn

very quickly that there was no transfer of U.S. technology to Israel, but the contrary, the transfer of Israeli technology to the United States.

[Ya'iri] Mr. Arens, to conclude, you are called a gentleman. That is being said especially now after your decision to retire. People say you are a very moderate person, enlightened, intelligent....

[Arens, interrupting] You are embarrassing me with those compliments.

[Ya'iri] But people also say that quiet people are dangerous. That you are a real hawk, you opposed the Camp David accords. Who are you really, Mr. Arens?

[Arens] I do not think I am the right person to define myself. Over the past two weeks I feel that I have been listening to people eulogizing me while I am still alive. That is a very special honor that has befallen me. I believe my views are known, and beyond that I think my record speaks for itself.

[Ya'iri] What sort of Moshe Arens does your family see?

[Arens] You have to ask my wife, my children, and grandchildren.

[Ya'iri] It is no secret that one of your sons is very leftist. How do you get on with him?

[Arens] First, I have four children, so everything is balanced. Second, is there any tie between a father's attitude to his son and political views or any other subject? There is no connection.

[Ya'iri] What can you say about your successors in the camp, Binyamin Netanyahu and Beni Begin?

[Arens] There is in the Likud, and that is not new, a whole series of talented, relatively young people, and I have no doubt that they will advance the Likud and will make sure that the latest change of government will not be the last in Israel.

[Ya'iri] Do you support Netanyahu in particular?

[Arens] At this stage, I do not want to add oil to the fire of the struggle for Likud leadership, but when the time comes I will definitely make my view known.

Fatah, Hamas Sign Agreement To End Fighting

TA1007173592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip reached an agreement this evening to stop the clashes and put an end to the conflicts that have broken out between them. The two sides signed a statement calling for an end to mutual assaults, media campaigns, and criticism. The statement also called for resolving disputes through dialogue.

Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that the agreement was signed in the wake of enormous efforts by

the Gaza Strip National Reconciliation Committee, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. A West Bank delegation comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, and Shaykh Subhi al-'Anabtawi, as well as a delegation of Israeli Arabs comprising Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, who heads the Arab National Municipal Council, Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Talab al-Sani', and Umm al-Fahm's Mayor Sahykh Ra'id Salah, participated in the deliberations, which took place in the blood bank office in Gaza.

More Clashes; Hamas Rejects Agreement

TA1107185692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] The clashes between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip continued today after the Hamas leadership announced that it could not accept the agreement to stop the street fighting. This was reported by our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay.

Over the weekend, another 32 Gaza Strip residents were injured in clashes between the two groups. This evening, Fatah activists held a large rally in the Jabalyah refugee camp, in which they accused Hamas of torpedoing the agreement. At the same time, in Gaza, members of the al-Din al-Qasim squad of Hamas held a rally in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Using loudspeakers, they warned Fatah men not to dare come out of their houses. The Army did not intervene in today's clashes between the rival camps.

'Ashrawi Released After 'Several Hours' Detention

TA1207131592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi arrived home this afternoon after crossing the Allenby bridge on her way back to Ramallah from Amman. Family members said Dr. 'Ashrawi was detained at the bridge for several hours and her belongings were searched. She then received a summons for interrogation by the police. 'Ashrawi will report for

interrogation in a few days, suspected of having violated the law by meeting Yasir 'Arafat in Amman.

Minister Leaves For Morocco at King's Invitation

TA1007072992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i has left for Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan. This was reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld. Among other things, Minister Der'i will try to arrange to bring to Israel the bones of immigrants who died on the Egoz ship 31 years ago.

Bush 'Desperate' To Make Up With Jewish Voters

TA1307080392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Jul 92 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush fears a defeat in the presidential elections and is in a bad mood. This report was communicated by a Jewish leader, who is very close to the President, after a meeting with the President last week.

In a classified document sent from Washington to the prime minister's bureau and the Foreign Ministry, a senior Israeli diplomat reports that in a desperate attempt to restore his standing with Jewish voters, Bush has issued instructions to draft a new memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel, securing in writing all the spheres of understanding between the two countries, including civil and defense aid, enhanced strategic cooperation, and political coordination.

Bush is supposed to sign the document during his meeting with new Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Jerusalem expects the official invitation for a visit to arrive as early as next week.

Rabin is also expected to receive an invitation soon to visit Moscow, after the Russian Government canceled the invitation to outgoing Foreign Minister David Levi, whose formal visit had been scheduled for May.

Buwayz—'Too Early' for Talks With Israel

LD1207102192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0945 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Jul (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz emphasized that it is still too early to start Arab-Israeli multilateral talks.

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT newspaper, he pointed out that multilateral negotiations depend on peace; therefore, since there is still no peace and the situation is far from clear "it is too early to start multilateral negotiations."

In this context, he said that Lebanon's entry into such talks is linked to the progress of the bilateral negotiations. He emphasized: "We have enough hard evidence to show that multilateral talks should be postponed until the bilateral talks have ended." [passage omitted]

The Lebanese foreign minister said the Syrian presence in his country has repeatedly and effectively helped to extend the state's authority, to stop the deterioration in the military situation, and to put an end to the state of war.

Referring to the al-Ta'if agreement, he said that in its context it is characterized with sufficient clarity.

Water Resources Not Negotiable

NC1207174192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the incoming Israeli government does not yet sufficiently desire peace. He added that the yardstick of progress is not Yitzhaq Rabin's electoral success, but the international community's willingness to deal firmly with Israel and persuade it to be responsive to the current historic circumstances.

Buwayz declared that Lebanese water resources are not a commodity that can be negotiated for or traded, saying: We refuse to allow these resources to be discussed at any international conference.

He stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Al-Hirawi Interviewed on Election Issues

PM1007151692 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
10 Jul 92 pp 17, 19

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Milhim Karam; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Karam] What about the demand of Lebanese people abroad for the right to vote at Lebanese embassies?

[Al-Hirawi] All Lebanese outside Lebanon—whether evacuees or not—would have been entitled to vote at our embassies abroad if Lebanon had a presidential system

and they were invited to elect a president. As for the assertion that expatriates are entitled to elect deputies, it is untrue. Which democratic country in the world has a system such as that which Lebanon is demanding today?

Foreign communities—for example, those in Lebanon—elect only presidents, not deputies, at their embassies. Recently there was a presidential election in Syria, and Syrian expatriates voted at their embassies. We have no presidential system. If we did, we would open all our embassies abroad and tell all Lebanese citizens: Come and vote. Can a U.S. citizen outside the United States vote for his representative from abroad through his embassy? The same applies to France.

[Karam] What about reconciliation and accord among the Lebanese?

[Al-Hirawi] Everyone is working on that, and I think that it has been proved to the Lebanese that there can be no happiness for them unless they come to an understanding. [passage omitted]

[Karam] Can elections in the South be held under the Israeli presence?

[Al-Hirawi] Let Israel oppose the elections so that the world can know the truth about that state, which is proud of its democracy, and so that it can be exposed. We will not accept any appointees, and we will guarantee the elections in the South.

[Karam] Is the government in harmony?

[Al-Hirawi] There are no disagreements in the government. But Ministers Samir Ja'ja' and Sami Minqarah do not attend its meetings. [passage omitted]

[Karam] What is the position of Washington, Paris, and the Vatican on these elections?

[Al-Hirawi] Washington issued a statement on the matter and Paris did not object. Paris says that it favors free elections... so it will see that for itself. God willing, 2,000 foreign journalists will come to Lebanon to cover the elections. They are all welcome. They will be witnesses to the elections' impartiality.

[Karam] What if all the Maronite leaders insist on not holding the elections?

[Al-Hirawi] First, I doubt that all Maronite leaders want that. In the past there were loud voices against the appointment of deputies. When we invited anyone who wanted to run for the elections to submit his application, 340 candidates did so. As a result, it was difficult for us to choose. Nothing satisfies my brothers and friends. We told them in the past about the appointment of deputies, and they said: No, deputies must be elected. Today we want to hold the elections "to relieve them" of the appointed deputies and the deputies who have been in office for 21 years, as they claim, but they say: We do not want elections.

[Karam] How will the economic crisis be resolved, and what is the new plan being prepared by the government and the competent ministerial committee with the IMF?

[Al-Hirawi] First, they requested from us that there be a commitment to supporting the IMF by reducing expenditure.

Second, to increase taxes, which are a legitimate right for the state. Some of them are already in force, and there are some on which laws have been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies for enforcement. This is in addition to our need for aid, not loans, in order to improve our economic situation. This is what we are all seeking to achieve.

[Karam] It is said that pressures and persecutions are taking place and that people are being held because they are oppositionists, supporters of General 'Awn and others. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Hirawi] Let anyone tell me that there is single political prisoner in jail because he supports 'Awn or Raymond Iddih, or that anyone has been arrested for insulting the president of the republic. I challenge anyone to do so.

[Karam] Some ministers from the former cabinet have started to move closer to Gen. 'Awn. What is your opinion?

[Al-Hirawi] This is a free, democratic country.

[Karam] Does the government implement the illicit income law?

[Al-Hirawi] The law exists, so let the government apply it. This is not a presidential system. [passage omitted]

Speaker al-Husayni on Need for 'Ethical' Elections

NC1107091092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon's Saturday Salon program, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has said it is only natural that the parliamentary elections will be ethical. He said there is a world race to hold elections, citing Romania and Iraqi Kurdistan. He said Patriarch Sfiyar has a right to express the worries that citizens are taking to him. It is also officials' duty to assure the patriarch and others that there is a determination to implement the steps taken to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Husayni said Christians and Muslims worry about the elections, but he pointed out that there is a common desire to hold them honestly. He said efforts are under way to prepare coalition election lists in all areas in line with the national accord process. He said these lists will be indisputable because they represent all the people. Al-Husayni pointed out that the Chamber of Deputies would be wrong to deny the government its readiness to hold elections. He said that linking the elections with

withdrawals [of the Syrian and Israeli forces] and with the issue of the displaced people is no longer valid, now that national accord has been achieved. He stressed that every Lebanese person finds it disgraceful that even one of the displaced should be kept outside his home or village. He said the decision on the return of the displaced has been made and is part of the national accord document; it is a constitutional provision.

Nasrallah Vows To Prevent Pact With Israel

NC1107064792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At a celebration in Beirut's southern suburb on 'Ashura' anniversary, Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah has said that just as resistance aroused the intifadah, prevented settlements, and defeated the enemy, we will pursue the same policy to prevent the signing of a new 17 May agreement [reference to the 17 May 1983 accord between Lebanon and Israel] to show our loyalty to our people, who demonstrated theirs with blood. He said we will prove that Hizballah's march is that of the mujahidin who defend the oppressed. He said Muslims need patience to uncover the U.S. and Zionist plots that aim to foil the intifadah.

Nasrallah Deems Ba'th Coalition Possible

NC1307081992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah received yesterday Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon and his assistant Ra'if Sufan. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in the presence of Political Bureau head al-Haj Husayn al-Khalil and Political Bureau member Shaykh Hasan 'Izz-al-Din.

After the meeting, al-Amin said the talks focused on political developments in the Lebanese arena, especially the parliamentary elections to be held this summer. They also reviewed in full the importance and effect of these elections on Lebanon's political future. He adds that this meeting could be an incentive for setting up a large-scale national coalition within the strategy of the two parties whose objective is to bolster and entrench the role of the resistance against the Zionist occupation. He affirmed that viewpoints on all these issues were identical.

Defense Minister on Weapons Collection, Elections

NC1207114592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has reiterated that he supports parliamentary elections, noting that he voted for elections in the Council of Ministers and Chamber of Deputies sessions.

In an interview with our radio station, al-Murr denied that the decision to collect light arms will affect elections. He said that people have until the end of this month to hand over their weapons.

Al-Murr said that the Council of Ministers decisions allow the Army to carry out the necessary storming campaigns after the deadline expires. He noted that illegal security groups have resumed activity, adding: We still deal with them in a responsible and cordial manner.

Minister al-Murr denied reports that granting licenses to carry weapons is being used as an election or political maneuver, saying that the average number of licenses decreased by 70 percent in the last two months.

Police Begin Collecting Arms

NC1107161592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Military police units of the Lebanese Army were deployed in a number of towns and police stations in 'Akkar today to begin collecting weapons from citizens. This is in line with the Defense Ministry memorandum calling on citizens to hand over their weapons by 27 July. Receipts will be given for the weapons collected, and one licensed weapon will be returned to every citizen handing in more than one weapon. The 27 July deadline was set in accordance with the citizens' own wishes; after this date, raids will be conducted to seize the remaining weapons.

Arab League Meeting Termed 'Inadequate'

NC1307112492 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
6 Jul 92 p 1

["On the Road" column by Talal Salman: "Arab Remarks on the 'Lebanese' Statement"]

[Text] Even an inadequate meeting has become a blessing during these times of Arab wretchedness.

Even a rhetorical statement, in which the significance of carefully chosen words is stifled so that gentlemen would not misunderstand them, has become a benefit in these times of complete division and absence of a minimum level of Arab solidarity.

In this sense, the mere convocation of the Arab League states upon request from Lebanon to discuss the repeated acts of Israeli aggression on its people is a timid Arab return to their senses and the realization that no one will care so long as the parties concerned in the problem are divided and preoccupied with other issues, where each party wants to save itself, even at the expense of other people or the whole nation.

Anything is better than nothing at all, even if the real reason for the meeting is to discuss and attempt to define some stand on post-Shamir Israel. The meeting also discussed how to deal with the Yitzhaq Rabin stage, as he will become prime minister of the Zionist entity, now in particular, in the name of the American master.

It does not matter that the Arab statement is much weaker than the Israeli action. This is natural. Also, what do empty words that resound like drums mean to the peasants of Jabal 'Amil whose homes are being blasted before their eyes and the ceilings and walls cave in on their heads, or whose produce and sources of income are being destroyed, or who are thrown out of their villages to fall flat on their faces out of fatigue in the borderless displacement suburb?

We do need, however, to make a number of remarks on the two parts of the statement: Issues pertaining to promised (and covered) Arab aid to Lebanon, and the issue of addressing the Security Council regarding Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The first remark we have is that the first part of the statement—that is, asking Arab countries to implement the aid to Lebanon they committed themselves to 13 years ago—is similar to a bankrupt person returning to his old books in an attempt to save his bad debts, probably out of his despair that the concerned party will not accept any new commitment.

The funny part is that the demands were made by the "poor." As for the "rich," or those capable of helping, and therefore the concerned, their presence at the meeting was symbolic. Perhaps this presence (mere presence) required huge efforts from the Arab League secretary general and some leaders of the poor who have a bit of influence on their rich "brothers."

The second remark is that two of the rich Arab countries that had pledged to grant \$2 billion to Lebanon now need someone to help them.

Iraq, destroyed and torn apart from the siege, is begging for medicine and food and extends its hand to the Security Council pleading for some pity to sell some of its oil to feed its people. But the Security Council, the manifestation of international will and values of human rights, is punishing all Iraqis to this day because their crazy president invaded Kuwait almost two years ago and made them lose the unity of their homeland, the buds of their youth, their resources, dignity, and pride.

Libya is also under siege in implementation of the same international will; no planes land in its airports and none take off either, not even to carry old or sick men, women, and children.

As for the rest of the countries, more specifically Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the rest of the Gulf countries, the allies have emptied their coffers and liberated them from their excess resources and oil wells. Now, the allies are wagering their future on the motto of reconstructing these countries or fortifying them against any possibility of a new (Arab) invasion.

They try to give the impression that they themselves are not invaders and have not cost these countries more than the pitiful Saddam Husayn adventure—immeasurable amounts.

The third remark is that the Arab foreign ministers who are members in the Arab Tripartite Committee entrusted with promoting, and later on, establishing the international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon, were absent from the meeting, each citing an emergency of his own. For the Algerian minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, his excuse is painfully clear. As for the Moroccan minister, he has never been involved in the economic aspect of the al-Ta'if Accord. Then comes the Saudi minister, who has been evading any meeting with Lebanese officials to avoid being asked to honor the pledges of his king and golden government. The story of the Saudi delegation's "escape" from the "Lebanese brothers" during the Islamic summit in Dakar is famous. Says a prominent Lebanese figure: He gently excused himself from receiving us, saying that it is his duty to visit us, then left without saying goodbye.

No sane person believes that Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has enough eloquence to persuade the Saudi officials today, during such hard times, to fulfill what they failed to do when their money was as plentiful as sea water.

The fourth remark is that in the part dealing with the Security Council and its responsibilities, the statement avoided the use of the word "demanded" and instead opted for "appealed," a mere appeal, for the world organization to uphold (!) international legitimacy and shoulder responsibilities in forcing Israel to implement Resolution 425, which calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal....etc. Inadvertently dropped

from the statement, most probably, was the phrase "as you did in the case of Iraq and Libya." Poor Arab League; it does not want to anger the wealthy Arabs so that they might not walk out of it, thus dealing a fatal blow to the nation. It is also afraid of hurting sensitive American feelings or to be accused of disturbing the U.S. honeymoon with Israel under Rabin. Thus, it finds refuge in appeals and ethics while the swords of occupation are chopping the sons of occupied Palestine to empty its land for those coming from the four corners of the earth.

Thus, the first part of the statement explains the reasons for the emptiness of the second part, just as the second part explains the lack of commitment found in the first part.

Reconciliation Committees To Aid Refugees' Return

*NC1107195592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] Kamal Faghali, head of Minister Elie Hubayqah's office, has said in a press statement that the process of the refugees returning to their original homes will begin within 15 days. Faghali noted that the mechanism for this process has not yet been determined, but indicated that there have been calls to form national reconciliation committees in the villages and districts. These committees, to be formed within 15 days, will pave the way for the refugees' return.

Editorials Urge Peace Efforts by Rabin Government
JN1307084092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0451 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH editorializes on the government formed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his retaining the War Ministry which, because of the militarist nature of the Israeli society, is the most important portfolio. AL-BA'TH says: What concerns us is that we, the Arabs, are heading into a new stage, the form and content of which could be new, particularly with regard to the peace process. Therefore, the next stage might be more complicated and delicate, particularly since Yitzhaq Rabin, before his party's election victory, appeared to be a dove for peace. We are confident, however, that the only difference between Rabin and Shamir and the other enemy leaders is that Rabin is more capable of showing himself as flexible.

AL-BA'TH notes that Rabin's view of the peace process is no different from Yitzhaq Shamir's. Rabin, in fact, resorts to separate partial solutions. Thus, he is playing a new, yet old, game intended to isolate the Arab parties that are directly involved in the conflict.

AL-BA'TH says: We are heading for a new stage of political action, a stage that could be the most serious stage facing the Arabs. This requires earnest, logical, and unifying work that should be far from all forms of appeasement. Coordination is a national and pan-Arab requirement.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Holding further consultations and direct contacts among the Arabs themselves, as well as between the Arabs and those interested in settling this issue on the basis of the international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, will be very useful and will serve toward achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "Will Rabin's Government Respond to Peace?" TISHRIN writes the following: The basic question is: Does Rabin have specific practical steps that will give momentum to the peace process, or at least, not obstruct it, and to abandon the no's and impossible conditions raised by Shamir? Can Rabin end the impasse in the peace process, which Shamir created by ignoring the bases and components of a just and comprehensive peace and raising secondary issues at the bilateral talks instead of discussing essential issues?

TISHRIN adds: Many questions will be strongly raised while waiting for answers from Rabin and his new government, particularly since the Arabs have always reiterated their insistence on and adherence to the peace process as well as their serious and honest endeavor to achieve a just, honorable, and comprehensive settlement in the region. The paper adds: If the Shamir government was responsible for wasting the opportunity provided by

the U.S. initiative to achieve peace, the Rabin government is now responsible for not wasting this opportunity and for announcing clearly and frankly its determination to implement international legitimacy resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, and to immediately withdraw from all the occupied Arab territory.

TISHRIN says: Syria has no doubt at all that there is only one way to achieve peace. This begins by not bypassing the facts and realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict and by finding a solution to the essence and causes of the conflict.

Concluding, TISHRIN calls for ending the occupation, restoring the Arab territory, implementing the international legitimacy resolutions, and achieving prosperity and stability in the region. The paper says that this can only be achieved if the new Rabin government recognizes the bases and components of a just and comprehensive peace and abandons aggression and expansion.

Rabin 'Peace Dove' Image 'Trap'

JN1207173892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: How can peace prospects in the region improve? The question is not only posed to the concerned parties in our region, but is also put to everyone who has shown concern for the peace process since the Madrid conference, especially since the atmosphere of peace has been clouded by intransigent Israeli stands, preventing any progress over the past eight months.

On our part as Arabs, any hasty answer to this question would leave us at the edge of a dangerous precipice, which we should guard against. If the Arabs get carried away quickly by the game suggesting that peace prospects in the Middle East have improved after the Labor Party's election and Yitzhaq Rabin's return, then the Arabs will be driven into a narrow corner and the arena will be left open for their opponent to maneuver and achieve its objectives and schemes without being held responsible for the consequences of not achieving peace, which is sought by the Arabs and which would guarantee their land and rights.

Whoever follows Rabin's statements since his election as prime minister finds that the prospects for peace—as defined by the international family through UN resolutions and the principle of exchanging land for peace—are still deadlocked, just as they were during Shamir's rule. For Rabin is like Shamir in that he will not return the territories, including Jerusalem, nor will he stop settlements, save what he called political settlements. Rabin will also not relinquish the Golan Heights. Add to this Rabin's other well-known stands toward the peace process.

So why is the Rabin government being given peace attributes never mentioned by this government itself? And what is the justification for saying that the prospects

for peace have improved with Rabin's coming to power? If it is true that the crisis between the defeated Shamir government and the U.S. Administration was due to that government's inflexible position toward peace, would the argument that Rabin is the Israeli peace dove not lead to falling into the trap of those who advance this argument, so that pressures would shift toward the Arabs if they cling to their rights and territory and what has been acknowledged for them by the world family and international legitimacy? Propagating this argument also means resolving the crisis between Washington and Israel over the peace process and shifting U.S. pressure toward the Arabs.

There is no doubt that the Arabs do not rule out the possibility of their being subjected to such U.S. pressure in future peace talks, in light of the distinguished allied relationship between Israel and Washington. Does it stand to reason, therefore, that we will pave the way for and justify such pressures?

The way to face such pressures is by consolidating the strength and coherence of the Arab position at the talks, if the peace process is resumed in the future; foiling Israel's maneuvers to enhance its image worldwide, after its ugly face was revealed during the Likud era; and avoiding falling into a trap whereby the Arabs would foot the bill for peace at the expense of their rights and territories, just because one Israeli government has fallen and another taken its place?

Arab efforts should concentrate on coordinating stands to maintain steadfastness in the face of all likely pressures that will spare no Arab party, and enhancing solidarity so as to entrench Arab rights and prevent any relinquishment of them, as well as obstruct all current maneuvers intended to burnish Rabin's image before his government's actual stands toward peace assume a clear shape.

It is certain that Syria's contacts, prior to the expected Damascus meeting among Arab parties involved in the peace process, serves that objective [obstructing Israeli maneuvers], out of a constant, established conviction on the part of Syria that the unity and solidity of the Arab position alone can guarantee the return of Arab rights. Anyone who wagers on anything different will be lost and will bring about the loss of the rights and cause.

Lebanese Premier Meets With Khaddam, al-Zu'bi

JN1107114292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in southern Lebanon, bilateral relations, and the steps being taken by the Lebanese Government to follow up on the implementation of the national accord document.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh at 1215 today. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur attended the meeting.

During the meeting, al-Sulh congratulated al-Zu'bi on forming the new cabinet, wishing him and the new government success. Discussions focused on bilateral relations and developing brotherly cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The Lebanese prime minister arrived in Damascus at 1030 today. He was received at the Lebanese-Syrian border by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Khaddam, Lebanese Speaker Discuss National Accord

JN1207150992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jul (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, at 1300 today.

Discussions dealt with the march of national accord in Lebanon and ways of strengthening it, as well as fraternal bilateral relations.

Vice President Mashariqah Returns From Sudan

JN1107071792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus last night following a visit of several days to the Republic of Sudan. During his visit, the vice president shared with the fraternal Sudanese people their celebrations on the third anniversary of the National Salvation revolution. [passage omitted]

Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, attended the meeting of the constituent conference of the Sudanese-Syrian Fraternity Association.

Dr. Mashariqah delivered a speech, expressing happiness about the convening of the conference, which coincided with the revolution celebrations of the Sudanese people.

Dr. Mashariqah reviewed Syria's national and pan-Arab achievements under President Hafiz al-Asad, asserting that Arab Syria stands like a bulwark in the face of dangers and ambitions directed against the Arab nation.

The vice president asserted that the Syria of al-Asad has made strenuous efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria, he added, will not bargain over or cede one inch of occupied Arab territory or a single usurped Arab right.

Afghanistan

Spokesman Says Disarming Mojahedin Suspended

LD1007140992 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] A spokesman for the Afghan provisional government has announced that the evacuation of government offices and the disarming in Kabul have been suspended. The spokesman for Afghan provisional President Borhanuddin Rabbani, announced that there are some differences existing between rival groups and the government which are hampering the implementation of disarming procedures in the capital.

He added that, following the former communist regime's downfall, some Afghan mojahedin groups occupied several government offices. The provisional government is calling for their immediate evacuation. The spokesman further declared that, currently, both the Afghan mojahedin groups and the government expect differences to be settled peacefully.

New Plan Revealed

BK1207125892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 12 (AFP)—An operation to clear government buildings and streets of armed mojahedin fighters is proceeding quietly under a new strategy, Afghan interim Interior Minister Ahmad Shah said Sunday.

The interior minister was referring to new procedures, endorsed by his caretaker government, to remove fighters of several factions still in Kabul following a failed military-style clearing operation.

"The plan is making progress without any resistance or problem," Shah told AFP.

Fighters belonging to a dozen mojahedin factions took over government ministries, buildings and homes after the fall of the communist regime April 28 to an interim resistance government, led by then president Sebghattullah Mojaddedi.

Afghanistan is now ruled by a mojahedin government under Borhanuddin Rabbani that acceded to power June 28.

Mojaddedi, during his chaotic two-month tenure failed to clear out the seized complexes, leaving the thorny task for Rabbani.

However, Rabbani has also failed to clear the city of remnant mojahedin, who cut power in the capital for three days last week to protest attempts at their forced eviction by tanks and armoured personnel carriers mobilised for the task.

At least one mojahedin commander died in the clashes during the first phase of the operation which began Monday.

"It is only my second day in the Interior Ministry, as previously it was not available (to me)," Shah said, as supporters thronged his office, which was looted during the transfer of power and later damaged in internecine skirmishes within the complex.

Shah, a member of the Saudi Arabia-backed Etehad-e Eslami faction, was referring to the intermittent occupation of Interior Ministry buildings by the rival Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat faction for the last two months.

The interior minister said about 1,000 mojahedin fighters have left for their bases outside the capital, adding that the clearing operation would continue to push out an equal number of others (word indistinct) in Kabul in a "manner that no one is hurt."

"All parties are fully cooperating in the operation being handled by the Defence and Interior Ministries," he added. "There have been no incidents and we are moving in the right direction."

Shah said Uzbek militiamen have been asked to remain in one place to avoid possible confrontations, adding that they would be sent to barracks after marching orders were issued.

Uzbek General Abdorashid Dostam, who helped topple the communist regime, deployed an estimated 25,000 of his troops at strategic centers in Kabul and ignored demands for their pullout by Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hezb insists on the withdrawal of the Uzbek militia from the city as a precondition for the arrival of Hekmatyar in Kabul.

Shah said he was "optimistic" that the Uzbek militiamen would not defy orders from himself or Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who is also a member of a northern Afghan military council headed by Dostam.

"Slowly, slowly we have been making good headway," Shah said, adding that he was "very optimistic" of Kabul attaining total security in the coming weeks.

He said work was under way to raise a 3,000-member police department to restore order in the city of 1.5 million people. A contingent of policemen is already operating in Kabul.

Hekmatyar States Conditions for Elections

LD1107103392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghani Jan 0830 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] of interview with Hezb-e Eslami-e leader Golboddin Hekmatyar by unidentified BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY and Kabul television reporters in the Hezb-e Eslami-e headquarters in Kabul on 8 July—read by announcer]

[Text] [Reporter] Esteemed Hekmatyar: The citizens of Kabul are waiting impatiently for your arrival in Kabul. When will you come to Kabul?

[Hekmatyar] I express my sincere thanks to the citizens of Kabul for their friendly feelings. Inshallah [God willing], I will come to Kabul when the existing obstacles have been removed. For the present, we think it advisable to stay in our trenches in order to serve the citizens of Kabul and to prevent [words indistinct] oppression and violation of the people's [rights] and property and to safeguard their honor. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Did you discuss any important political issues at your meeting today with the prime minister?

[Hekmatyar] It was a routine meeting. I should have been in Kabul to welcome the first prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and I should have been at the welcoming ceremony. Unfortunately, for various reasons I was unable to take part in this ceremony. I wanted to have a talk with him, but on no particular issue.

[Reporter] During the jihad years, you and your [word indistinct] performed [great service] to the jihad. What, then, is your message to the people of Afghanistan?

[Hekmatyar] Praise be to God, the Hezb-e Islami-e Afghanistan began the Islamic movement in our country and embarked on an armed jihad against the Russians and the communist block. During this resistance our [Hezb] played an important role. We thank Almighty God for our faithful mojahedins' success in saving their country from domination by others.

We assure our esteemed and persecuted people, and in particular the citizens of Kabul city, that the limited difficulties now facing them will be removed and total security will be restored. We want a powerful central government to be set up by the mojahedin. [The Russians] have left our country and the communist regime has been toppled, so the remnants of communism cannot stand against the mojahedin. But by hatching a number of conspiracies, they have created obstacles against the mojahedin. However, I am sure that our [word indistinct] and vigilant nation will not remain silent in the face of these conspiracies. [passage indistinct] They fan regional, tribal, linguistic, and religious prejudices, hoping thereby to [words indistinct]. But our nation, praise be to God, is awake. [passage indistinct] No one can divide our nation on the basis of north or south, language, religion, or race. We are all brothers [words indistinct]. We will not allow [any group] to divide our country. Inshallah, [God willing] we will see the establishment of a central Islamic government.

[Reporter] Will all forces and all sections of society have a chance to participate in this Islamic government?

[Hekmatyar] The present government is an interim government and will last for four months. We expect an election to be held during these four months. We want an

elected [word indistinct] shura in which all sections of the nation take part. We want to set up a permanent government on behalf of the nation.

An important condition for our cooperation is that all sides guarantee that an election is held and respect the results of the election. The election must be held during this transitional period. We do not want to see a vacuum in the country when these four months have passed. We do not know what will happen after the four months and how the future government will be set up. The only way is to hold an election. We insist that the election [be held] during these four months. If we want to have sovereignty without bloodshed, all forces must pledge not to [seize] power by a coup d'etat. It is not possible to grasp power by way of an international conspiracy. [passage indistinct]

Our main condition is that the ground should be prepared to enable our people to elect the leadership of Afghanistan by themselves. Our struggle will continue until such conditions are created. We believe that cruelty and oppression cannot be [word indistinct]. Oppression will be removed when the people determine their own destiny and [elect] their own leadership.

[Reporter] Will the minorities such as the Uzbeks, Turkmens, Tajiks, and Nuristanis have the right to participate in the government you talk about?

[Hekmatyar] We want the country to have an electoral system that will ensure that parliament represents all sections of society. There should be proportional representation, so that every voter is represented in parliament. [passage indistinct] Such an electoral system will guarantee the rights of minorities. Thus, the nationalities will have delegates in the parliament in proportion to their rights. We insist that election be held on the basis of proportional representation. In this way, we will have a parliament which represents [words indistinct] every individual and all sections of our society.

Warning Against Cooperation With Communists

LD1207111792 (Clandestine) Radio Message
of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT
11 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After the fall of Najibollah's puppet regime, the unfortunate people of Afghanistan hoped that their country would become a cradle of peace and happiness, and that its sorrowful people would be able to live in an atmosphere of happiness and calm. Unfortunately, through compromises and an alliance with some simpleton Muslims, the remnants of the communist regime have created circumstances that not only [words indistinct], and they also tried to create a divide and misunderstandings among the mojahedin. When the mojahedin tried to get closer to each other and to create a

climate of trust among themselves, the remnants of the communist regime embarked on various satanic acts to put an end to their efforts.

For example, after Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojadeddi's transitional period of office, when the leaders of Hezb-e Eslami and Jamiat-e Eslami held hands in friendship and Professor 'Abdul Sabor Farid, the prime minister designate, were preparing to come to Kabul to take office, the remnants of the communist regime once again ruined the situation. They attacked Hezb-e Eslami centers with rockets. They also fired rockets against the city of Kabul in an attempt to convince the people that Hezb-e Eslami is against Borhannodin Rabbani's government and has decided to fight him.

However, Hezb-e Eslami mujahedin have clearly denied firing rockets into the city of Kabul. This act was committed by opportunist individuals hoping to take advantage of any fighting among the mujahedin. After all, why should Hezb-e Eslami launch an attack just when the prime minister designate is going to Kabul? From the outset, Hezb-e Eslami has declared its support for the government of Borhannodin Rabbani, and will continue to cooperate with it for the glory of Islam and the progress and happiness of Afghanistan.

The leaders and commanders of other jihadi organizations should stop cooperating with the enemies of Islam and of Afghanistan in order to make the souls of our martyrs happy, and to allow the things the people of Afghanistan have dreamed of for 15 years to come true. They should not tolerate any attempt to cause disunity and tension among the ranks of the mujahedin.

There is no doubt that the remnants of the communist regime will never be happy at the success of Muslims and will never allow a pure and full Islamic government to be established in Afghanistan. Those who love Islam and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and want a happy and stable government to be installed in Afghanistan can never be willing to see the remnants of the communist regime stand by them holding weapons in their hands. It is true that the mujahed nation of Afghanistan declared a general amnesty for communists and pardoned them, provided they give up their sins and unconditionally give up their arms to the mujahedin. But it is not prepared to tolerate a situation where communists are still armed. The faith and Afghan valor of the brave Afghan nation cannot stand the idea of communists ruling over them once again by force of arms.

The Afghan nation considers the existence of communists in the government to be a threat to the security and the existence of Islam and the land of Afghanistan. If they have any opportunity, they will harm the members and leaders of the Islamic movement. All jihadi leaders and commanders who sincerely want an Islamic government should place their trust in the Muslim and mujahed nation which fought for Islam and Afghanistan for 14 years and should not trust the remnants of the communist regime under which they suffered misery and pain. It

is shameful to leave one's mujahed brothers of 14 years and to side with the worst enemies of Islam who have spent all their life trying to destroy Islam and kill the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Those elements who have been deceived and have aligned themselves with the communists may think that by so doing they might have benefited, but in fact they have incurred a great loss. They have made God and his Messenger angry with them. They have also angered and saddened the Afghan mujahed. But yet [words indistinct] the circumstances are suitable for them to trust their Muslim and mujahed nation instead of the remnants of the communist regime. If they do so, they will both frustrate the filthy intentions of the opportunist elements once and for all, and will help to establish a pure Islamic and independent government in Afghanistan in line with the wishes of the heroic Afghan nation and of the 1.5 million martyrs.

Harakat-e Eslami Leader Comments on Constitution

LD1207125392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Text] Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, leader of the Harakat-e Eslami and spokesman of Afghanistan's Leadership Council, gave an exclusive interview to a Central News Unit correspondent in Kabul this morning.

He announced that the draft of Afghanistan's constitution has been drawn up and has been sent to jihad leaders for assessment. He said: When the jihad leaders have announced their opinions, the draft constitution will be presented to Afghanistan's Leadership Council for approval.

The spokesman of Afghanistan's Leadership Council also described the situation in the country as calm and satisfactory. He stressed the necessity for unity of word and the establishment of a free and independent Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Ayatollah Mohseni said it is not possible to hold elections in Afghanistan until weapons have been collected and until the refugees have returned home.

Acting Foreign Minister Thanks Iran for Support

LD0907173592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The interim government of Afghanistan thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for the Afghan mujahedin's 14-year struggle.

Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mr. Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani today received the credentials of Mr. Najafi, our country's ambassador to Afghanistan, and at the same time he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting more than 2 million Afghan refugees during the lengthy

struggle of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. He also called for the continuation of closer contacts between the two countries.

During that meeting our country's ambassador also said: The existence of common issues between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Afghanistan have prepared very appropriate grounds for the continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support and cooperation with the Muslim country of Afghanistan.

Saudi Envoy Meets Officials; Pledges Assistance

Greets Prime Minister

LD1107145492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Ustad Abdul Sabor Farid, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with Saudi Ambassador Yusuf al-Motabbakani on Friday at 0900 in the prime minister's office in the Golkhana Palace. At this meeting, the Saudi ambassador promised the prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan every assistance and cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and asked for friendly and extended relations between the two countries.

He also said that not only Saudi Arabia but all Islamic countries are proud of Afghanistan's victories. For this reason, the mujahid and Muslim nation of Afghanistan should be respected. At the Islamic conference, shouts of Allah Akhbar [God is great] echoed around the hall during the speech of Brother Hekmatyar, and in the same way your arrival in Kabul delighted all Islamic countries.

Ustad Farid then said: I am delighted to meet the first representative of the Islamic Government of Saudi Arabia. From the bottom of our hearts we thank those Arab brothers who assisted and cooperated with our jihad. A number of our Arab brethren sacrificed their lives with us following the path of Almighty God. We also thank our Arab brothers for the other assistance they extended to us. We expect you to join us and assist us in the reconstruction of Afghanistan as you helped us when we faced major difficulties. I am sure you will not leave us alone this time.

Ustad Farid added: I hope you will convey my warm and sincere greetings to the Saudi authorities and to the faithful people of your country.

At the end of the meeting, the Saudi ambassador thanked the esteemed prime minister for meeting him despite his enormous engagements.

Meets Defense Minister

LD1107081492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met in his office with Mr. Yusuf al-Motabbakani, special envoy and ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad.

The Bakhtar Information Agency reports that during this meeting, Mr. Yusuf al-Motabbakani presented a message of congratulation from the government and people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of establishment of the Islamic State in Afghanistan, and expressed his country's readiness to render any type of assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's selfless and friendly cooperation during the years of jihad and for the readiness expressed by that country to render assistance to the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

India

Latest Developments in Ayodhya Dispute Reported

BJP Government Faces Dissolution

BK0907160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, held discussion with the non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] opposition parties in parliament today in the wake of the latest developments in Ayodhya [site of Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine]. Those who attended included the former prime ministers, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Mr. Somnath Chatterji of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr. Inderjit Gupta of CPI and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan of Janata Dal. The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. P.K. Kumaramangalam, were also present at the meeting. Several options, including imposition of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh, were reportedly considered to defuse the situation created by the launching of the construction work at the disputed site.

Nine Congress-I members of parliament have urged the prime minister to take immediate steps to stop the construction work at Ayodhya. In a letter to Mr. Narasimha Rao, they said a report should be called for from the Uttar Pradesh governor on the situation. The MP's said the BJP government in the state should be dissolved if it fails to stop the construction work and president's rule imposed to maintain peace and harmony all over the country. The signatories to the statement include Mr. Vilas Mutimwar, Mr. Shivcharan Mathur, Mr. Mani Shanker Aiyer, Mr. A.R. Antule, Mr. Ramnivas Mirdha and Mr. P.M. Sayeed.

State Minister Asked To Report

BK1107033192 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The center has requested the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to come to New Delhi with all the information on the reported developments at Ayodhya. The Minister of State for Home Mr. M.M. Jacob told the Rajya Sabha yesterday that the center would come out with a statement on the development after discussions with the chief minister. Meanwhile, Mr. Gulyan Singh in a message to the union home minister has conveyed the Uttar Pradesh government has taken a number of steps to insure the protection of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. He is reported to have stated that there is complete peace and communal harmony and any attempt to disturb it would be dealt with firmly. In a related development, all opposition except the Congress-I in Uttar Pradesh have urged the center to take steps to stop leveling and digging work near the disputed site in Ayodhya. In a resolution adopted in the meeting in Lucknow yesterday, the opposition leaders said the leveling, digging, and laying of foundation are in defiance of the court order. The Kerala assembly, in a unanimous resolution, has expressed concern over the developments in Ayodhya. [passage omitted]

'Volatile Overtones' Noted

BK1107100892 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 92

[O.P. Sabarwal commentary]

[Text] The Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque dispute in Ayodhya] issue has once again acquired volatile overtones. Since the Narasimha Rao government assumed office at the center hopes have been raised by the concerned parties that this sensitive issue would be resolved amicably by application of good sense and concern for national unity and the sentiments of the two main communities.

The central government, on its part, has gone about resolving the dispute with wisdom and care while the main parties, including the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Babri Masjid Action Committee leaders, have been talking with sobriety. The sudden flare up of emotions on both sides as well as the turmoil in parliament and several state legislatures has come about with the starting of temple construction in Ayodhya by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] apparently with the blessing of the BJP leaders and, according to the non-BJP opposition parties, under the protective wing of the Uttar Pradesh Government. The charge is that the VHP, which has the overall support of the BJP leadership, is out to unilaterally construct the temple at the disputed site even as the issue remains subjudice and a judgment is yet to be pronounced.

On the other hand, the BJP leaders hold that the construction is taking place at the site where shilanyas

[foundation stone laying ceremony] was held earlier without causing any harm to the Babri Masjid and should, therefore, not generate objections. Will the construction stop short of the disputed site without causing damage to the Babri Masjid structure? On this vital question, however, neither the BJP leaders at the center nor the Uttar Pradesh Government have given a clear answer or assurances. Were such assurances forthcoming, the tensions could be defused and a negotiated settlement arrived at even at this late stage. Yet, one must wait and see, for the coming days will be crucial.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has called the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, to come over to Delhi for clarifications and consultations. One fervently hopes that the center and the U.P. Government will put the heads together and find a solution to this complex and sensitive issue. Here is a test case for the wisdom of political leaders of all parties for at stake is not only the relations between the two communities, their sentiments and emotions, but also India's image and the nation's unity and integrity.

There are some who rely still entirely on the court verdict. But can the court find a way out which will assuage the religious sentiments and find the way to the hearts of the people? The solution can best be found by the leaders of the main political parties. The difficulty comes not because of the needs of the temple and the masjid [mosque] or the religious sentiments of the people. The main stumbling block comes when political mileage is sought by different political parties using the religious sentiments of their respective constituents. This is certainly not permissible.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Comments

BK1107130292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has expressed the hope that the Uttar Pradesh Government will create a proper atmosphere in Ayodhya for resolving the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue. He held 75-minute long talks with the chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, in New Delhi this afternoon on the latest controversy regarding the construction work at Ayodhya.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Chavan said both sides put forth their points of view. Although there was appreciation on either side, satisfactory results are not expected in the first round of talks. Mr. Kalyan Singh told newsmen that his government is committed to giving full protection to the disputed structure. He said he discussed all aspects of the issue with the home minister and necessary steps to safeguard the complex were already taken even before Mr. Chavan's letter was received by him on Wednesday.

Replying to a question, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister said that the ongoing work at Ayodhya does not violate any court order. He said he has made it clear to the

center that some package should be evolved immediately through discussion to find a lasting solution to the dispute. Mr. Kalyan Singh assured the center that till such time, protection of the disputed structure will be ensured.

The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has said that a considered decision will be arrived at by the center soon on the Ayodhya situation. In an interview to UNI today, he described the considered decision as only option suggested by various people. Asked why was the government unable to make a statement on the issue in the Lok Sabha in the past two days, he said the government does not want to rush things. Mr. Arjun Singh said that the effort to seek political mandate on a basically religious issue is unethical, illegal, and unconstitutional.

A 10-member National Front and Left parties delegation led by Mr. V.P. Singh today met the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi to discuss the Ayodhya developments. The delegation included Mr. S.R. Bommai, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Mr. Chitta Basu, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and others. Later Mr. Paswan told our correspondent that the delegation urged the prime minister to take immediate steps to take over the disputed area by the center and uphold the court verdicts on the issue.

Construction Continues Amid Protests

BK1107163892 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] The Supreme Court today made it clear that no permanent structure should be put up on the land acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Government around the disputed complex at Ayodhya. The direction was given by the vacation judge, Mr. Justice M.M. Vekatchalaya, after 13 minutes hearing of a petition by Mr. (Achan Rizvi) praying for restraining the state government from construction work in violation of the court order. The court made it clear to the state government that the disputed structure should not be touched in any manner except for the purposes of its preservation or against subsisting orders of any court. The court adjourned the hearing and directed that this matter be listed before an appropriate bench on the 15th of this month for further consideration. The court also noted that it should await the pronouncement of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has expressed the hope that the Uttar Pradesh Government will create a proper atmosphere in Ayodhya for resolving the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. He held 75-minute-long talks with the chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, in New Delhi this afternoon on the latest controversy regarding the construction work at Ayodhya. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Chavan said both sides put forth their points of view. Although there was appreciation on either side, satisfactory results are not expected in the first round of talks, he added.

Mr. Kalyan Singh told newsmen that his government is committed to give full protection to the disputed structure. He said he discussed all aspects of the issue with the home minister and necessary steps to safeguard the complex are already taken even before Mr. Chavan's letter was received by him on Wednesday [8 July]. Replying to a question, the chief minister said that the ongoing work at Ayodhya does not violate any court order. He said he has made it clear to the Center that some package should be evolved immediately through discussion to find a lasting solution to the dispute. Mr. Kalyan Singh assured the Center that till such time protection of the disputed structure will be ensured. He said district authorities throughout the state have strict instructions to maintain communal harmony. In Ayodhya itself, a thorough check is being made and the entire complex is floodlit to prevent any mischief, he added. Answering a question, the chief minister said he was given a note by the home minister and it will be examined.

In Ayodhya, construction activity is going on near the disputed complex. A platform is being constructed at Shilanyas site [the place where the foundation stone-laying ceremony was held]. The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Ram. J. Tripathi, after visiting the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex in Ayodhya, reports that the structure is well protected and the security arrangements have been further tightened.

Meanwhile, a bundh [strike] call given by the Babri Masjid Action Committee in Faizabad today evoked little response. Only a few shops were closed. Life was normal in Faizabad and Ayodhya.

The Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee has condemned the commencement of construction activity at Ayodhya. In a statement in New Delhi today, the convenor of the committee, Syed Shahabuddin, has alleged that the Uttar Pradesh Government has violated the status quo orders of the high court and the injunction against permanent construction.

The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has said that a considered decision will be arrived at by the Center soon on the Ayodhya situation. In an interview to UNI today, he described the considered decision as all the options suggested by various people. [sentence as heard]

The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has appealed to the Uttar Pradesh Government to immediately stop the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya. Talking to UNI, Mr. Shekhar said the Center should immediately hold direct talks with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the VHP [Vishva Hindu Parishad] to solve the issue.

Team Assesses Situation

*BK1207151292 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 92*

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, along with senior officials of his ministry today visited the disputed site in Ayodhya. He went round the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed temple-mosque] complex. The minister also visited the sanctum sanctorum and saw the construction work at the shilanyas [foundation stone] site. Senior UP [Uttar Pradesh] ministers, Mr. Lalji Tandon, Mr. Rajendra Gupta and Mr. Brahmdukt Dwedi, briefed the home minister about the situation in Ayodhya. Meanwhile, the construction activity at the shilanyas site seems to have been stepped up. Later, talking to newsmen in Ayodhya, the home minister said that he has come to view the situation himself. However, he refused to give his impressions. Mr. Chavan said he will give details to the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs and also to the parliament.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that a team of central officers led by the additional secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. A.K. Basak, which went to Ayodhya with the home minister, has stayed back. It will make a detailed assessment of all aspects, including the security and the on-going construction activity. The team will submit its report to the home minister in due course.

Hundreds of Janata Dal workers staged a dharna [sit-in demonstration] at the prime minister's residence demanding immediate prevention of the on-going construction activities at the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid complex in Ayodhya. The politburo of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in a statement condemned the central government for its inaction in intervening and stopping the on-going construction work at Ayodhya.

Home Minister Wants More Security

*BK1307051092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has apprised the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs—CCPA—last night about the situation in Ayodhya. The CCPA reviewed the developments at the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed temple-mosque] complex in the light of Mr. Chavan's report. The home minister, who visited Ayodhya yesterday, said security in the disputed complex needs to be further strengthened. He offered to depute five more companies of paramilitary forces for the protection of the structure. He asked senior officers accompanying him to stay back to make a detailed assessment of the on-going construction activities and security arrangements. The team will submit its report to the Home Ministry.

Polling Begins To Elect Ninth President

*BK1307070092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0630 GMT 13 Jul 92*

[Text] Polling is now on to elect the country's ninth president. Elected members of parliament and state legislators are exercising their franchise in Parliament House and state assemblies. The main contest is between the Congress-I candidate, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the opposition National Front-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] supported candidate Mr. G.G. Swell. Mr. Jogender Singh Alias Dharti Pakad is also contesting the presidential election as an independent candidate.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, was the first to cast his vote in Parliament House when polling began at 1000 [0430] this morning. Among others who voted within minutes of the start of polling were the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil; and the union ministers, Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Mr P.R. Kumaramanglam. Mr. G.G. Swell, a member of the Rajya Sabha, has also exercised his right of franchise.

Our parliamentary correspondent says polling is going on at a brisk note in Parliament House and nearly 300 members of parliament cast their vote during the first one hour of polling. Our correspondent adds that members were seen waiting in the queue to exercise their franchise much before the scheduled time of start of polling. In Imphal, the Manipur chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorender Singh, was the first to vote in the presidential election. The union minister of state for urban development, Mr. M. Arunachalam, who is the manipur capital as Congress-I observer for the elections, will cast his vote in Imphal. Our correspondent reports that the polling in Imphal is being held at the Secretariat Hall instead of assembly premises as is done elsewhere. This follows the speaker's refusal to permit the polling to be held in the assembly premises in protest against the failure of the election authority to appoint any of the Manipur Assembly Secretariat officials as assistant returning officer for the elections. In Himachal Pradesh, the union minister of state for textiles, Mr. Ashok Gehlot; the chief minister, Mr. Shanta Kumar, some of his cabinet ministers and the former chief minister, Mr. Virbhadra Singh, were among the first to cast their votes in Simla.

Ram Jethmalani Withdraws From Presidential Race

*BK1107164092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] Mr. Ram Jethmalani has withdrawn from the contest for the presidential election which is scheduled for Monday [13 September]. In a statement in New Delhi, he said he is retiring in favor of Professor G.G. Swell. In a separate statement, Professor G.G. Swell and Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Prasanna Batekar, have welcomed the decision of Mr. Ram Jethmalani.

Ruling Party Candidate Wins Rajya Sabha Position

*BK1007100692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] Dr. Najma Heptulla has been elected as deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the third time in a row. She polled 128 votes and her opposition-sponsored rival, Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury, secured 95 votes. In all, there were 16 motions favoring Dr. Najma Heptulla and four motions supporting Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury. The chairman of the house, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, put the first motion moved by the leader of the house, Mr. S.B. Chavan, after the opposition forced the division.

New Cabinet Secretary Named

*BK1107100092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] The power secretary, Mr. S. Rajagopal, is to be the new cabinet secretary. He will succeed Mr. Naresh Chandra, who retires this month. A Maharashtra cadre IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer of the 1957 batch, Mr. Rajagopal yesterday joined the cabinet secretariat as officer on special duty. Mr. R. Vasudevan, presently secretary in the department of steel, will be the new power secretary.

INSAT-2A Satellite Placed in Intermediate Orbit

*BK1107095892 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] India's first indigenously-built multipurpose satellite INSAT-2A was successfully placed in intermediate orbit by firing the apogee motor early this morning. A communique issued by the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore said the 65-minute first apogee motor firing was commanded by the scientists from the master control facility at Hassan at 0617 [0047 GMT] this morning. The scientists are determining the orbit of INSAT-2A through various ranging measurements after which the second orbit raising operation to place the satellite in the near geosynchronous orbit will be decided.

Said Operating Normally

*BK1007114492 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 92*

[Text] The Lok Sabha today hailed the successful launch of the INSAT-2A from Kourou in French Guiana. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, congratulated the Indian scientists and all those connected with the making and launching of the satellite. He said the country is proud of their achievement.

Meanwhile, the Master Control Facility, MCF, at Hassan in Bangalore has acquired the INSAT-2A satellite which was ejected into space by the European space rocket Ariane-4 from Kourou in French Guiana this morning. An ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] press release said in Bangalore today that all

operations are normal and proceeding as planned. It said immediately after the acquisition of the satellite a (?tense) check was performed and MCF issued a series of commands by which the earth-viewing face of the satellite was made to look at the earth and the outermost solar panel face the sun generating the electric power required by the satellite during its transfer orbit phase. The MCF completed all the operations within 40 minutes of the acquisition. INSAT-2A is now going round the earth within orbital period of about 10 hours and five minutes and will go out of the MCF's radio visibility at 1430 Indian Standard Time today. It will again come within radio visibility at about 0130 tomorrow.

The satellite is also being tracked by ground stations of the INTERSAT network located at Perth, Australia; Clarkesburg, USA; and (Reisting), Germany. The satellite will attain its final geostationary orbit about 36,000 km above the equator in about two week's time.

Satellite Communication Station Commissioned

*BK1107141692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 92*

[Text] India's first satellite mobile communication land-earth station called Vikram Inmosat Land Earth Station at Arvi about 85 km from Pune was today dedicated to the nation by the communications minister of state, Mr. Rajesh Pilot. Speaking on the occasion, he said telecommunications has become a lifeline for all business and economic activities and India cannot afford to lag behind in this field. The 23-crore rupee station named after the Indian scientist, Vikram Sarabhai, will provide shore-to-ship and ship-to-shore telephone, telex, facsimile, data communication, [and] high speed data service to and from maritime mobile and land-based Inmosat terminals.

Iran**Khamene'i Denies Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons**

*LD1307101292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
13 Jul 92*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The leader of the Islamic revolution [Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i] has said that international propaganda accusing Iran of militarism, of increasing its weapons of mass destruction, and of acquiring a nuclear weapon is a vicious measure taken by the United States and Zionism. He added: A nuclear weapon is not something that can be transferred quietly from one country to another. By spreading this false rumor, they wish to present the Islamic system as being opposed to the establishment of world peace, but they should know that the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the strength of faith of its hezbollah forces. This is precisely a strength that the United States, the former Soviet Union and other small and large world powers have so far been unable to defeat. [passage omitted]

U.S. Congressional Support for MKO Assailed
*LD1207165292 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT
12 Jul 92*

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Release of a letter signed by 219 U.S. congressmen to the State Department requesting official support to the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) of Iran is proof of their backing for terrorism and evidence of the support by the U.S. of the criminal perpetration by the MKO.

The group comprising 142 Democrats and 77 Republicans had called on the Bush administration to support the MKO.

The letter, released Friday, said the MKO's 'National Resistance Council' has demonstrated that it is really able and ready to materialize peace and stability in this region and play its role in doing so.

Mention of such a claim by the U.S. congressmen is evidence of the U.S. involvement in the terroristic acts of the outlawed MKO and their recent criminal perpetrations against the Shiites and Kurds of Iraq in southern and northern parts of the country.

The congressmen in fact have supported the killing of the Kurds by the MKO under Saddam Husayn's support and refer to the MKO in laudatory terms. It seems that the massacre of the people of Iraq has been the most important common goal of the MKO and the U.S.

The letter adversely affects the international credence and reputation of the U.S. congressmen and can simply be considered as an evidence of the U.S. support for terrorism and against the human rights.

Another part of the letter said that other sources indicate that the 'National Resistance Council', supported by its military wing, is founding the pillars of freedom in Iran, supported by the people and by mass strikes during the past few months.

Such a claim is proof that the U.S. congressmen have had very unreliable information about the recent unrest in Mashhad and used the same insufficient information for voicing their antagonism against Iran, whereas in point of fact foreign reporters had said in their reports that the unrest in Mashhad was not politically- charged.

The foreign mediemen have frequently stressed that the MKO, because of its terroristic inclination does not have any support among the people. Therefore, the claim by the U.S. congressmen that the MKO were involved in the recent incidents in Iran is in fact an effort by them to give credibility and prestige to the criminal MKO.

Another part of the letter said that based on experience the religious roots of the MKO among the Iranians is a hindrance against the government's taking advantage of the feelings and religious sentiments of the people in Iran.

Therefore, the letter argued, the 'National Resistance Council' is the ultimate solution to the problems caused by fanatic fundamentalism in Iran.

The emphasis of the congressmen on what has been labeled as the deep religious roots of the MKO among the Iranians in itself disproves the existence of any such roots among the people. The claim by the U.S. congressmen is proof of their utter ignorance.

A small group which, on the basis of the confessions of its reformed former leaders, is now embroiled in a corruption because of disbelief in the principles of religion may hardly be able to have deep religious sentiments among the Iranian people who have demonstrated their religious faith in the scene of action and jihad.

That the congressmen should have referred to the MKO as having been the ultimate solution to the fundamentalism is not without some sort of reasoning. The MKO's offered their best service to the United States by suppressing the uprising of the Shiite Muslims in Iraq, while at the time we read in the news that MKO's are being employed for suppressing the revolution of the people in Algeria.

At any rate the letter by the U.S. congressmen and their support to the MKO is a good evidence in proof of the disreputation of the U.S. Congress and an irrefutable proof of the support of the United States for terrorism and international terrorist groups such as the MKO.

State Department Criticizes MKO

*LD1207092992 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT
11 Jul 92*

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 11, IRNA—U.S. State Department on Friday turned down the request of a group of congressmen, led by Mervin Dimaly, for the Bush administration to support "the National Resistance Council" that is the outlawed Iranian Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) now based in Iraq.

Joseph Schneider, a State Department spokesman, said Friday that the State Department had very good reasons why it should not deal with the MKO especially because, he said, the State Department could not afford to forget MKO's support for terrorist acts in the past.

The letter had been signed by 219 U.S. congressmen, 142 Democrats, and 77 Republicans.

The letter by the group of U.S. congressmen also lodges several unfounded accusations against the Islamic republic such as support for international terrorism, violation of human rights, and fomenting agitation in the Persian Gulf region.

Accusation on Counterfeiting Dollars Rejected*LD1207130392 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT
12 Jul 92*

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday rejected reports that Iran and Syria have printed billions of dollars of counterfeit American 100-dollar notes to destabilize the U.S. economy.

The English-language daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" was referring to a recent American congressional report which appeared in the London-based "DAILY TELEGRAPH".

It said the congressional task force allegations coupled with the part that makes reference to Lebanon "is intended to point finger at Islamic and other factions in the south of that country sympathetic to Iran and Syria...the common trait among the three is their uncompromising opposition to Israel and its disregard for international laws."

The editorial pointed out that the slanders against Iran and Syria are "obviously intended to make the opponents of Israel look bad and outlaws."

"If Iran is in need of foreign exchange—itsself caused by a war initially engineered by Washington—they are to take care of Iran's international transactions which usually involve established financial institutions as intermediaries. Who can inject even one cent of counterfeit money through these bodies?...this shows how narrow-minded some U.S. congressmen can be..."

In fact, added the daily, "as a new phase in its diplomatic and economic ties with the international community, Iran is emphasizing integration and cooperation now, and no Government that advocates such a policy would engage in printing counterfeit notes."

Referring to the dumping of counterfeit Iraqi dinars and U.S. dollars into Iraq by American helicopters, as claimed by Baghdad, the paper said "the attempt at destabilizing the American economy emanates from within and not so much by Iran, Syria or any other party."

"It is the U.S. Government itself that tries to use economy as a tool of subversion in its foreign policy," the editorial concluded.

Tehran Majles Deputy Discusses U.S. 'Onslaught'*NC1207053092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
6 Jul 92 p 2*

[Excerpts] We should always assume that the United States poses a danger to Iran; they will never tolerate us. This remark was made by Tehran Majles Deputy Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani during a meeting with other Majles deputies. According to our correspondent, in answering a question on why we appear dangerous to the United States, Larijani said: Iranian policy is not as significant since the dismemberment of the Soviet Union. Is Iran important because of its oil reserves? Are

we a nuclear power? Why is the United States so sensitive about us? When they brief their Congress on their national programs and security strategies, they say that they are no longer threatened by a nuclear power. They see the threats to their national security as: Fundamentalism; nationalism, such as in Europe; and regional tension, especially in Asia and Africa. Why then are we the number one threat, or are they just joking?

He added: We are the focus of world attention, especially in the Islamic world, because we are a legitimate government. The United States sees us as an obstacle to the implementation of its policies in the Islamic world. Today, the usurper Jerusalem regime is suffering from the intifadah uprising; their view is that this uprising is the natural offspring of the Iranian revolution. Larijani said: Blood has triumphed over the sword and the people have taken to the streets to stage an uprising, seeking martyrdom without fear of cannons or tanks. People say that this is the prelude to an Islamic revolution. These are scenes which can be witnessed all over the Islamic world. The West thought that the situation in Algeria could be resolved with a coup d'etat, but it has realized that the matter goes far deeper than words.

Referring to Iranian-U.S. relations, Larijani said: We should not lose sight of the main issue. It is not just that this country that is in conflict with us wishes to maintain a degree of economic and diplomatic relations. The essence of our dispute with the United States is our Islamic and Koranic prestige, which threatens the United States. In its feud with us, the United States will gradually attempt to subvert the Islamic revolution from within. This is where the theory of a cultural onslaught comes in.

The enemy's first objective is to make the people doubt the performance and efficiency of their officials, then doubt the principle of the Islamic government, and eventually believe that Islam cannot provide for the government of society. If there is a rift between the government and the people, they will try to broaden the gap by creating political discord!

Alluding to [UN Human Rights Commission member] Galindo Pohl's visit to Iran, Larijani said: One of Pohl's comments was: Why not provide enough paper for the people to air their views by publishing different kinds of magazines? Why did he want the publications to air their opinions more freely? He made these remarks at a time when thousands of people were being killed in various parts of the world, especially in southern Lebanon and Israel. [passage omitted]

Larijani said: As long as the Americans do not attain their objective of having the people become disillusioned with their government, they will continue to try to soften our policy toward them so as to reduce their problems in the Islamic world.

Larijani added: Some believe that we should not have relations with the United States because they are stronger and will ruthlessly exploit us! If they open an embassy in Iran they will be able to organize various

elements to topple the government. Still others think that not having ties is a sign of weakness or inferiority. But this is a source of pride. Not having relations is not just a posture; it means that we have kicked the United States right in the teeth. We are the only country that has the courage to stand up to them. Today we see that U.S. hegemony against the Islamic world is harmful. It is our obligation to incite the entire Islamic world against the United States. Our lack of ties with Washington is not a result of fear. It is my belief that the Americans have done everything they can against us, and will continue to do so.

Continuing on the same theme, he said: Our officials do not feel ashamed to do anything if it benefits the system, and they will certainly implement whatever benefits the system. It is obviously not to our advantage to have relations with the United States.

The Americans are ready to spend billions of dollars just to elicit a smile from us, and will even provide economic aid. This is itself a source of pride for our system, and in the interest of Islam, we reject their overtures.

Larijani added: The U.S. strategy toward Iran is a multifaceted one; that is, it ranges from military moves to economic pressure, from undermining us politically to a cultural onslaught. It is possible that not all Westerners concur with the United States in its policy, but they are unanimous in their fear of Islam.

The Tehran Majles deputy said: Today we are confronting a major onslaught, even though no shots have been fired. Our officials' responsibility to safeguard this great, divine gift is the equivalent of a military defense, and selflessness in this mission is as important as it would be in a military defense.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Stand on Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD1207125192 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT
12 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—A morning daily today branded American President George Bush's stand vis-a-vis the carnage in Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H] as "theatrical", and said, in fact Washington is scheming to offer the Serbian aggressors "better opportunities" to step up their massacre of Muslims in the Balkans republic.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" commenting on Bush's ruling out any military action as called for by Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic at the two-day Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), said the American leader is even acting against the approval of the heads of state of the seven industrialized countries (G7) who announced their readiness for military operations against the Serbs.

In January 1991, it recalled, the U.S. embarked on a massive military adventure in the Persian Gulf to fuel

the Kuwait-Iraq conflict, while now it is totally indifferent and unmoved towards the daily massacres of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"In Kuwait, Washington's so-called interests meant the destruction of Iraq...while in Bosnia-Herzegovina, its interests lie in unabated mass massacres and perpetuation of heinous crimes by the Serbs."

America, in fact, intends to bait B-H officials with certain trivial concessions, and at the same time subject them to tight pressure by keeping the Serbian card under its sleeve, the daily concluded.

Algerian Leader's 'Anti-Democratic Start' Noted

LD1307094192 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—A morning daily today cast serious doubts on the ability of the newly appointed Algerian head of state to bring stability to his country, saying that "the new leader's mission, too, is hopelessly handicapped due to its anti-democratic start."

"With the expected defeat of Mr. Boudiaf's mandate to rule with the help of the gun, there is a very good chance that his successor Mr. Ali Kafi will not do better," wrote the English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial.

Referring to reports that Kafi is a "warm supporter of unity among north African countries", the daily added "if there is any element of logic in what is being said about the new ruler's affection for African unity, he can begin from home."

"First Algeria should be united in the face of serious political and national difficulties to be able to attract followers from neighboring countries."

"Then there is the question of Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and those who voted for Islamic rule in this important Afro-Arab country."

Commenting on the opening of the trial of FIS leaders Abbas Madani and Ali Belhadj on charges carrying the death penalty, it said "the trial obviously has come at a very crucial and challenging period in the recent history of Algerian politics."

"Its outcome could set the course for events to come not only in Algeria but for its neighbors also..." the editorial concluded.

Editorial: Israel Scared by Islamic Movement

LD1307095492 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The anti-Israeli rhetoric of Arab regimes during the past four decades has proven that the propaganda of these regimes is meant for

internal consumption and that they are reluctant for a determined overall struggle against the Zionist entity, said a morning daily.

'JOMHURI ISLAMI' noted that ever since Israel's illegal birth, many Arab heads of state rode to power on the crest of fervent anti-Israeli slogans, but soon changed their stand citing political circumstances.

"The past 40 years further reveal the tragic reality and proves that the main reason for the frustration of peoples in the Arab world is lack of trust or confidence in their governments", it noted.

With the change in international and regional equations, continued the daily, "global arrogance and Zionism are attempting to further tilt the already unequal balance against the Arabs in favour of Israel."

However, the thing that firmly stands against these conspiracies is the global Islamic movement, it added.

In the aftermath of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the main arms supplier of the Arabs, and with regard to the weakness the Arabs showed in the 1990 Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, Israel and its guardians stepped up efforts to fish in troubled water.

"But the Zionist regime and its supporters soon realized that the main barrier, the global Islamic movement, was still there, blocking their way to total domination," said JOMHURI.

"Today, both friends and foes admit that the banner for a genuine struggle against Israel is in the hands of an Islamic movement, set in motion by the revolutionary idea of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini, who justly called for the complete annihilation of the illegal Zionist entity," it noted.

"This very power and majesty of the Islamic movement," concluded JOMHURI, "has scared the daylight out of senior Israeli military officials making them voice concern that preserving the so-called balance of power in the region is not enough."

Daily Calls on Palestinians To Halt Conflict

LD1307101692 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT
13 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The 'TEHRAN TIMES' daily Monday called on the warring Palestinian groups, Fatah and Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), to immediately halt the internecine conflict in the Gaza Strip.

The daily's editorial termed as a "positive move" the agreement reached between Hamas and Fatah last Friday but said that the truce does not promise much hope as such clashes might spark any moment.

"The principal question, however, is why should there be an armed conflict between two combatant Palestinian

groups inside the occupied territories while the enemy will be most pleased and will stand to benefit from it?"

The Yasir 'Arafat-run Fatah has been fast losing ground in the occupied territories including Gaza to the emerging Islamic Hamas which during the local election rounds has proved its growing mass appeal.

The Zionists and secularists unable to suppress or pacify the Intifadah, hate to see a popular Islamic movement spread all over Palestine.

"It is surely an irreparable loss for both sides to use their limited resources and potential against one another in the occupied lands in place of reaping benefit from this power to combat the Zionist regime."

"Apart from the devastation of their power, armed confrontation will also adversely affect both parties. It can be precisely in tune with enemy propaganda," said the daily pointing to the Zionist propaganda that Palestinians lacked the necessary social and political development.

"Interparty conflicts and clashes within the occupied lands should be swiftly brought to a halt. As for the determination of the fate of the Palestinian people "no group has the right to set the criteria and to assume the task, since only the votes of the Palestinian people are determining and decisive for this purpose,"

Hizballah Election Participation 'Sound, Rational'

NC1007110992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International
Weekly in English 2 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Parliamentary Elections in Lebanon"]

[Text] Lebanon's Hizballah has expressed readiness to partake in the country's parliamentary elections. In a press conference Tuesday in the south of Beirut, Secretary General of the Hizballah Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, referred to the party's determination to participate in Lebanese parliamentary elections slated for this summer.

The Lebanese community, gripped by complex matters, is beset and anguished by one major issue. The country has had a Parliament with a determining role in decision-makings even in the course of the civil war; yet the MPs have never truly represented the Lebanese people. In fact, this Parliament was more than ten years old but the power-holders found it expedient that this unrepresentative Parliament carry on its operations and existence.

In the novel situation permeating Lebanon when calm is to be fully restored to this war-stricken country, the need for holding parliamentary elections is more tangible than ever. The decision of Hizballah's leadership to take part in the parliamentary elections is sound and rational and can properly counter much of the propaganda made in this region against the party.

Actually, Israel and its propaganda machinery have made extensive efforts to present as terrorist acts the

armed struggle of the combatant Lebanese forces in response to the Israeli occupation. They even tried to portray the Hizballah as a war-mongering group. Now, however, with the apt response of the Hizballah to participate in the parliamentary elections, a large part of such propaganda is neutralized and called off.

Even though parliamentary elections can effectively facilitate the restoration of people's sovereignty in Lebanon, it must be kept in mind that this has one condition: that the elections take place in a free and democratic atmosphere.

In the first place, the foreign governments wielding influence over Lebanon should abstain from exerting their power over the elections. In essence, there is no difference in influence wielded by various foreign governments and these should not exercise influence in the affairs of Lebanon.

If the representatives of the Lebanese people enter the Parliament through exertion of influence by a foreign government, they will lack the necessary power and credibility to represent the people. And, in this case, we will witness the emergence of a weak Parliament in crisis-ridden Lebanon, something which will not be to the advantage of the people.

'Suppression' of Tunisian Fundamentalists Decried

LD1107122692 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1030 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Two hundred seventy-nine Muslims are being court-martialed in Tunisia. Yesterday the Tunisian El Nahdah Movement said: The trials are unacceptable and whatever the verdict may be, it will be despotic and unfair.

In the first court hearing the Muslims were brought in the court room in an iron cage while they had made fists shouting God is the Greatest.

Tunisian sources have said: Forty-eight of the accused will be sentenced to death. It is also said that 44 others will be tried while absent.

International organizations which are in that country to supervise the trials, have announced that most of the accused have been tortured and at least nine of them have lost their lives as a result. But who are the opponents of the Tunisian regime and what is their charge?

These people are policemen, soldiers, and customs employees who were arrested in spring of 1991 along with hundreds of other people. Opponents in Tunisia jails say: General Ben 'Ali is using suppression of Muslims as an alibi in order not to carry out democratic reforms which he promised in 1987, when he took over power. In that year General Zine El 'Abidine Ben 'Ali toppled President Habib Bourguiba in a creeping coup d'etat and promised to give freedom of action to parties.

But trend of events coupled with full power in the hands of Ben 'Ali proved to be contrary. He only gave small and unimportant parties freedom of activity, and bigger parties like the El Nahdah Party of Tunisia were not only banned, but were dissolved. And this was when independent candidates of El Nahdah had won more than 30 percent of the 1989 parliamentary elections.

Now why did Ben 'Ali replace Bourguiba in the political scene?

The concern of regime about increasing power of the Islamists and their coming to power led to a behind the scene agreement between the Army and the rulers to bring General Ben 'Ali to power to hinder the fast pace of Islamic movement there.

The fact that among the accused Muslims there are policemen, soldiers, and (other strata) of people, is an indication of growth of Islamic tendency in Tunisia on the one hand, and the regime's fear of becoming weak and shaky on the other.

Now five years after coming to power of Ben 'Ali, the biggest trial of Muslims in recent years in North Africa is being held. Their charge is only formation of an Islamic Government democratically and not violently so all political parties could be freely active. But it looks like the violent attitude towards, and suppression of Muslims in North Africa today, instead of being the act of the ruling regime, is a current guided by the West.

Egypt Lambasted for Campaign Against Islamists

NC1207161192 *Tehran SALAM in Persian* 30 Jun 92
p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Regarding Relations With the Egyptian Regime"]

[Text] Egypt enjoys a special place in the history of Islamic and anti-colonialist movements; it was in the vanguard of the struggle against colonialism. Great Egyptian intellectuals and scholars played a major role in the "process of reviving Islamic thought" over the past two centuries. Since the era of Sayyid Jamal [al-Afghani] and Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh, there has been a dynamic school of Islamic thought in Egypt that has had significant influence in other Islamic countries. Unfortunately, despite the power of Islamic thought and the long history of struggle by various Islamic groups in Egypt, the Islamic movement has never succeeded in gaining political power. We do not want to discuss the reasons for the Egyptian Islamic movement's lack of success in this article, however.

The culmination of the Islamic revolution in Iran, led by his eminence the imam, coincided with the al-Sadat's about-face toward the West, when he participated in the treacherous Camp David Accords. Even though the Iranian revolution struck a blow against U.S. objectives and the process of compromise with Israel, al-Sadat was unable to free himself from the quagmire of the peace

treaty with Israel and gratuitous U.S. financial assistance. With their fiery bullets, however, Egyptian revolutionaries—taking courage from the Iranian revolution—showed al-Sadat the way out by killing him, once again proving that the Islamic movement is waiting in ambush for traitors.

The revolutionary assassination of al-Sadat, especially with the international conditions at the time, made the West determined to ensure a pro-Western regime in Egypt. The outcome was the rise to power of Husni Mubarak and the dispatch of more gratuitous U.S. financial assistance to Egypt. Egypt now receives so much that it ranks second only after Israel on the list of recipients of gratuitous U.S. assistance!

Because of al-Sadat's participation in the treacherous Camp David peace treaty, the imam, may his soul be sanctified, severed relations with the Egyptian regime in the first year after the revolution. With this, he established the basis for rejecting compromise with Israel. The imam's revolutionary stance was so influential that until last year, no Arab government dared consider compromise with Israel. Unfortunately, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and the disintegration of the Soviet Union pushed the Arab regimes toward passivity and a review of their policies regarding relations with Israel. The outcome has been the U.S.-sponsored peace talks. The Arabs have not yet gained anything positive from these talks. We should not forget that the process of compromise with the regime occupying Jerusalem was started by the Egyptians!

Ever since it came to power, Husni Mubarak's regime has sought to crush the Islamic movement. It periodically sends its suppressive police force into the streets to raid homes and mosques and arrest and harass the combatant Egyptian Muslims. Egyptian prisons are filled with hundreds of Muslim combatants who rose against the treacherous and subservient Egyptian regime, and who are ready to face martyrdom to achieve their sacred objectives. The Egyptian regime initiated a new operation to crush the Islamic movement after the recent assassination of an anti-Islamic and apostate author. Reports indicate that hundreds of Egyptian combatants have been arrested or martyred by the suppressive forces of the Egyptian regime. The extent of the Egyptian regime's hatred and hostility toward the Islamic movement is clear; there is no need for further explanation.

For months there have been murmurs in Iran about establishing relations with Egypt. Some Foreign Ministry officials recently commented on this, apparently thinking that if they repeat the idea enough, it will lose its vulgarity and become an ordinary issue. The question is: What has changed that can justify the establishment of relations with Egypt? Our country severed relations with Egypt during the era of the imam. Have we now decided to reestablish relations? The "principle of establishing relations" is an accepted principle, and was repeatedly stressed by the imam. The "establishment of

relations" within the framework of our system's ideological and political principles is acceptable and justifiable. Even if we accept the rationale that all Arab countries are engaged in negotiations with Israel, however, how can we justify the Egyptian regime's efforts to crush the Islamic movement?

Besharati on Increased Ties With Saudi Arabia

NC1007111392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Jul 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] Tehran—A senior Iranian official yesterday said that the upward trend in the oil price at this time of the season is the direct result of closer bilateral relations and understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that today the oil prices are higher than what they were during winter times five months ago.

Besharati who recently arrived from Saudi Arabia where he went to perform the Hajj pilgrimage said, "Today Irano-Saudi relations are as good as they have never [as published] been before during the last 12 years."

While he was in Saudi Arabia he held talks with senior officials of that kingdom on bilateral, regional and international subjects.

Besharati said that very soon high-level exchanges of visit by the officials of the two countries will take place which will pave the way for better reciprocal relations.

When asked Besharati said, "Yes President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd may soon visit each other's countries and may have vital discussions on regional, bilateral and international issues."

"Before that," Besharati said, "Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal may visit Iran for preliminary preparation of the Iran-Saudi summit."

Besharati went to perform Hajj as an envoy of the Iranian president and also presented a message of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to King Fahd.

When asked, Besharati said, "Well, I found him (the king) as the most ardent supporter of better Irano-Saudi relations based on mutual respect and without interfering in each other's internal affairs."

"This was the reason we Iranians performed Hajj without any problem," Besharati said, adding that this year the Saudis have increased the number of Iranian Hajj pilgrims from 115,000 to 120,000 along with 8,000 Iranians residing abroad who were also allowed to perform one of the most important religious duties.

Emami-Kashani Says Islamic Revolution Exported

LD1007145792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1023 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani in Tehran on 10 July—live]

[Excerpts] Although pilgrimage is worship, although it is the place to commune with God and its worship dimension is very high, its political dimension also is most important. May God be satisfied with the imam and our worthy martyrs who made the pilgrimage in this form. That is, our revolution... [pauses] I saw this in the pilgrimage this year; I saw that our revolution has really been exported. That is, what the imam graciously says, what the beloved leader of the revolution graciously says, our revolution was exported. That is the world... [interrupted by crowd chanting: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to the antirevolutionary, death to America, death to Britain and death to the hypocrites, death to Israel] ...that is, the world of Islam has paid attention to the Islamic revolution; attention has been paid to the interests of Muslims.

Even those who do not want to talk about the imam's thoughts are obliged to talk about them. In their Friday sermons and prayers in Mecca and Medina they are obliged to refer to those who are oppressed and tyrannized. [passage omitted]

The movements that are now going on in the world in the name of Islam are based on this. That is, they say that we revolt; we stand against the falsehood. Even if victory involves exposing the falsehood, we annihilate the falsehood's line, even if this is the direction [as heard].

Today the world of Islam must show self-sacrifice. The misery that we see, the treachery and crimes that we see against the world of Islam—on the one hand Lebanon and Palestine, on the other Bosnia-Herzegovina, Algeria, and Afghanistan, as well as other places—which was made so wretched by Eastern arrogance which, thank God, was disintegrated and annihilated. The movements that the Muslims have started in the nooks and crannies of the world—and the way the enemies of Islam attack them—the world of Islam follows this leader, this idea, ideal, and slogan, which Imam Hoseyn showed. [sentence as heard] He said: One must not give in to humiliation. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni on Need To Keep People Informed

NC1007081492 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Jun 92 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] In his meeting with participants of the third convention of judges and judiciary officials, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the approaching 11th anniversary of the 28 June martyrs and described the valuable role played by judiciary martyrs in establishing Islamic precepts in society. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni stressed: Today, in this difficult struggle between the pure Muhammadan Islam and the American-style Islam, the propaganda machine of the powers of world arrogance, with all its powerful equipment and might, seeks to convince the world that our revolution and system has distanced itself from the imam's line. The fully aware Muslims know where our leadership stands and know the allegations are false, but when remarks such as that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia are two wings of Islam do not elicit any protest from the system's foreign policy officials, it hits the people's trust. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that establishing relations abroad based on the Islamic revolution's untainted principles and system is favored, adding: We do not oppose establishing relations with Islamic countries, and the imam and the great leader of the revolution have advocated such relations, but only within the specified framework. If the revolution's great leader allows relations with any country I will endorse and defend that decision.

Relations, friendship, and cordiality should be within a framework that should not, God forbid, lead the system to deviate from the imam's line. This is the West's greatest ploy. If we forge relations with a country such as Egypt, which incidentally has pluses and minuses, or if such relations are confined to political meetings in other countries, we should discuss the issue in full with the people.

Iran's people know the lines delineated by the imam are unalterable and the leader of the revolution also said that it pays us in this world and the hereafter to follow the imam's path. Muslims elsewhere who are subjected to the West's propaganda onslaught do not realize the crux of the issue.

Unlike the situation at home, when the powers of arrogance want to raise an issue they first have a diplomat suggest as much to test the waters. If this fails to generate any tension they pursue it.

Concluding, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni said: I ask the Foreign Ministry to inform the people of their officials' meeting with Egyptian Government officials and the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on countries such as Egypt. Otherwise, silence will pave the way for rumors, and this would harm the system and the revolution. [passage omitted]

Ja'fari Appointed Commander of Land Forces

LD1207104892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jul 92

["Text" of 12 July decree by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Sardar Brigadier General Mohammad Ali Ja'fari: At the suggestion of the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], I appoint you commander of the land forces of the IRGC. You are one of the enlightened elements of the IRGC, and you played an outstanding role in leadership and guidance in battles during the imposed war [with Iraq].

I thank Sardar Brigadier General Izadi [former commander of the IRGC land forces], who has made valuable and unforgettable efforts to bring order to the IRGC. I have no doubt that the experience and capabilities of that dear brother [Izadi] will be utilized to the full in the IRGC.

Your main mission is to command and administer the land forces of the IRGC and to daily strengthen this main pillar of the IRGC. I ask God Almighty to bring you success.

Seyyed Ali Khamene'i, 12 July 1992.

Revolutionary Guard Commander Interviewed

NC1107061092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 Jul 92 pp 3, 12

[Interview with Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, by unidentified RESALAT correspondents in Tehran "on his return from hajj;" date not given]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] The most important duty of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is to protect and safeguard the Islamic revolution and combat internal and external threats against the revolution and our Islamic homeland. What, then, is the position of the corps today? How prepared is it to carry out this responsibility and vital duty? Will you elaborate on this from the perspective of its organizational system and the force's quantitative and qualitative aspects?

[Reza'i] The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is responsible for safeguarding the Islamic republic on the basis of the Constitution, the laws of the Islamic Majles, and the views of his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) and His Eminence Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

There are threats against the Islamic revolution at every juncture, including efforts to dismember the country, threats of foreign invasions, and uprisings in which foreign hands are involved. Immediately after the war, when we had more time for reconstruction, we began to upgrade our preparedness. In the course of these three years, we have been able to restructure part of our system, including compiling rules and regulations governing the corps actions on recruitment and training. [passage omitted]

As far as the quantitative aspect is concerned, we have worked in the sphere of mobilization, and some have

been implemented. The great leader has issued some decrees on strengthening the Basijis [mobilization personnel]. In cities and towns, centers have been set up to mobilize the youth. [passage omitted]

In the qualitative aspect, the corps is learning more effective ways of using old weapons and how to use new weapons we obtained after the war. Of course, the new weapons are familiar and not too complicated. The Corps is emphasizing the use of these armaments on the battlefield.

[RESALAT] The corps has had many years of experience on the battlefield and in guiding operations in various fields. Today we are witnessing serious developments among our northern neighbors and in the Iraqi crisis. What is your program to defend borders now and in the future?

[Reza'i] We believe that the United States is to blame for the regional crisis. We would not need a strong military force if the United States were to withdraw its warships from the Persian Gulf, stop creating problems among the regional governments, and stop provoking governments against one another.

We are forced to strengthen ourselves and be prepared to combat crises solely due to the United States. If they were not here, we would not feel any sense of danger regarding the regional countries. We have relations with the Islamic and neighboring countries in the region.

If the Americans had not created these crises and had not driven a wedge among the Islamic countries, we would not need to expand our military forces. Today is the era of Islamic reconstruction, the era for compensating for 300 years of Muslim backwardness, which was imposed by the West. We should, therefore, reduce our military expenditure and embark on building the Islamic world. The United States is seeking to justify its presence here by creating crises in the region.

Iran's policy is two-sided: On one hand we believe that we need to reduce arms and that military forces should depart from the region; on the other, we are forced to remain in a state of preparedness as long the Americans are here.

By spreading the propaganda that Iran is seeking access to special arms the Americans have created another serious artificial crisis in the region. They are trying to create another imaginary danger in this region and intend to accuse us when, in fact, the main element of insecurity in this region is the United States itself. If the Americans were to depart from the Islamic world and leave it to its own devices, we could find great conditions for security and political stability. A very balanced security situation would emerge here. This is why we are suspicious of the U.S. presence in the region and are forced to stay prepared.

[RESALAT] Some time ago, the Israeli Air Force commander mentioned the bombing of Iran's nuclear installations and reports indicate that Israeli airplanes were practicing aerial refueling to prepare for a strike on long-range targets. Could you please tell us your assessment of the Israeli threat? If it does materialize, what Israeli targets can we strike? Does the Corps have a plan of action in this eventuality?

[Reza'i] It appears that the Israelis need this type of propaganda because they are the ones disseminating it. They may even resort to implementing the plan. The reason for the propaganda is that in the past few years the Palestinian Muslims' Islamic uprising has crested and generated an atmosphere of instability in the occupied areas.

Just when the Israelis thought they had finished with the Palestinian issue, the uprising started. Israel feels impotent in the face of the uprising, and the entire world knows that Israel is helpless and weak before the Palestinian people.

The second issue is that of the Hizballah operations in the occupied lands in southern Lebanon, which have beleaguered Israel to the extent that it is not sure where to bomb. Israel's latest bombardment did not do anything but prove its utter helplessness in the area. It is looking for ways to redeem itself for its defeats in southern Lebanon.

Another issue is that Israel has witnessed our successful policy of mobilizing the Islamic world to drive Israel out of the occupied lands. The Israelis are terrified of the Islamic Republic and are trying to foil Iran's efforts in being a political model on how to combat Israel.

Israel has adopted a policy of intimidating other countries in an effort to prevent them from emulating Iran. This is also one of the reasons for Israel's propaganda and its possible operations.

A very subtle point is that the Israelis have hoodwinked the entire world, even the United States, by stealing nuclear substances and equipment from South Africa, and some Central Asian countries in the past few months. This was probably done with the complicity of the previous government as far as the dealings with South Africa are concerned. In order to cover up all this, the Israelis are trying to divert public opinion by raising the cry that Iran is trying to get nuclear weapons. The fact is that all Iranian centers and installations have been inspected by the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], which has confirmed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. Their report even said that they found no evidence of nuclear military activities in Iran. [passage omitted]

Iran possess excellent facilities for delivering an appropriate response to any possible aggression by Israel. These types of facilities may not be present in the entire region. We also have some practical possibilities insofar

as all the countries of the Islamic world. If the situation were to arise, we would deliver a suitable response.

[RESALAT] We have not received any news from Iraq for quite a while. It seems that some sort of censorship has been imposed on news from Iraq. What is your opinion on the situation in Iraq, the internal situation, and the future of the Iraqi regime?

[Reza'i] It is certain that Iraq's internal situation is very difficult and that the economic sanctions have created extremely critical conditions inside Iraq. One can see this looking at the increased death, the pressure the people are experiencing, and the current political conflicts inside the country.

There are also other complex problems, such as the very serious setback that the Monafeqin [pejorative term meaning "hypocrites," used for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] sustained in their support for the Iraqi regime. A large number of their force was annihilated, and its higher cadres were eliminated in the recent Iranian air raid on its positions.

In any case, the Iraqi regime's dread of attacks by internal enemies and the Americans have brought about a sort of news censorship in Iraq; no news or information seems to be coming out. Conditions inside Iraq today are unsatisfactory and will only deteriorate if reports were disseminated about it. The Iraqi Government seems to have imposed a news blackout so that the foreign media and international information agencies are unable report its internal weakness so that neighboring countries cannot try to capitalize on it. [passage omitted]

The fact that this regime is in power indicates that the Americans are weak because they cannot even solve the problems of a weak country. If, in the future, any country believes that the United States is a reliable power, it will be laboring under a delusion. The United States is too helpless to depend on or even to become involved with.

[RESALAT] What is your appraisal and analysis of the recent developments in Iraq and the convocation of the elections in the Kurdish-inhabited regions there?

[Reza'i] Iran accepts the premise of elections in a unified Iraq. On principle, we favor elections and believe that the people of a country should be involved in their political destiny and play a part in it. We wholly support elections. We are not, however, in favor of weakening or dismembering Iraq.

We want a unified Muslim Iraq where the will of the people, which is the will of Islam and the Muslims, reigns supreme. Therefore, we support all elections except those in northern Iraq. We have no idea what the U.S. motives are there or how they hope to capitalize on these elections. What is certain is that elections took place and parties participated and reached certain agreements. We informed them that if they wanted the Islamic Republic to be in contact with the Kurdish movement in Iraq, they must uphold and safeguard Iraq's unity and solidarity.

This was the condition we laid down before our brothers in northern Iraq, and we have told them that if they do not abide by this condition, we may not have anything to do with them.

[RESALAT] Reports indicate that the United States is seeking to gain influence in the Central Asian republics, especially in the Caucasus (Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan) through Turkey. How is the Corps prepared to combat the plots in these regions, especially regarding the threats to security in the northern regions? Western media describe this as [U.S. and Turkish] efforts to gain influence in the northern Iranian provinces, especially Azerbaijan. For example, what would we do if Turkey, with U.S. support, tries to occupy or annex the Republic of Nakhichevan? Such an occurrence would be opposed to our national interests.

[Reza'i] We do not consider these plans to be very practical or enduring. We believe that the Americans are trying to incite one government against another. Today we wish to warn all Islamic countries against the dangers of sacrificing their people's interests for the Americans. As soon as the people realize that its government is sending the country's youth to the slaughterhouse for the sake of the United States, it will serve as a spark that will topple any government doing this in a short period of time. [passage omitted] [RESALAT] Turkey might not actually deploy its troops; it might simply annex Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan with U.S. support in order to achieve its dream of a Greater Turkey. We are aware that this would fit into its objectives. In any case, you mentioned the national interests of the Turkish people. We must bear in mind that the Turkish echelons, in their total servitude to the United States, may embark on actions that might overtly conflict with their national interests. We have witnessed Turkey's contemptible stance in the face of the events in northern Iraq. In addition, you have the historical issue of Cyprus. We reiterate our question: Does the Corps have any security or protection plans if Turkey wants to infiltrate in the Caucasus and in the areas beyond Iran's northern borders, specifically if it annexes Nakhichevan?

[Reza'i] We hope nothing will happen. If someone gives us a pretext, we will capitalize on it. We would never initiate such an action. The world wants us to do something to give others a pretext for taking action. It is Iran's policy to eliminate any reason for a foreign presence in the region. This is why we are pioneering unity and fraternity in the Islamic world in our policy and our actions.

In general, however, I think it is highly unlikely that if a weak faction came into power in a country it would be able to do anything great. [passage omitted]

We consider Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Nakhichevan to be part of the Islamic world. We believe that instead of creating military altercations, which harm the peoples interests, that all Islamic countries should mobilize their resources to reconstruct Nakhichevan so that

its economic, political, and technological problems can be solved. Any effort to embroil Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan in military problems would be a conspiracy against the interests of the people of Nakhichevan.

Our first concern about Nakhichevan is what we can do to help in its reconstruction. It is a plot to say that it should follow the course of the United States and establish ties with it. This is tantamount to sacrificing the Islamic world to the United States, something no Islamic nation would accept. The Islamic nations of Nakhichevan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan should realize that if a government sacrifices national interests for the sake of the United States, it will pay.

[RESALAT] Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous region and the Armenian forces have taken over. What course do you think the conflict will take? What will be the war's outcome?

[Reza'i] No usurper country can retain another's territory. We are confident that the occupied lands that have been usurped in violation of international regulations will be liberated.

It is to the benefit of the usurper country to return to its own borders and to officially recognize international frontiers. It should relinquish disputes that have been rigged by foreign powers and should resolve differences in a fraternal manner. [passage omitted] [RESALAT] What is your appraisal of the incidents in Mashhad, Shiraz, and Arak? There is no doubt that those who say that this was an act of the people are wrong. On the other hand, the judicial, propaganda, and security agencies say that none of the rightist or leftist counterrevolutionary groups were involved in this problem. What is the basis on which these trends and events emerged?

[Reza'i] What is certain is that we are in a new phase of the revolution, and we are taking steps toward economic expansion. There will be differences of opinion about these steps as the people and various organizations are preparing for reconstruction, economic reconstruction in particular. The most important topic of the day in our society is the economy, and it is natural that differences of opinion and discontent exist in various economic areas.

Can they tell us why these differences were not present earlier? In response, I would say that when our people were so involved in the war they did not worry as much about economic issues. Everybody was worried about the outcome of the war so issues like inflation did not seem relevant in our society.

These issues existed but they were not aired because there was little interest in them. The fact that today they are being raised does not mean that these issues have emerged today. It only means that they have become importance now.

We say that the economy is important; therefore, we expect the people to be sensitive to economic issues.

Incidentally, we consider the peoples' sensitivity on economic matters to be a means of strengthening the system and reconstruction. [passage omitted]

One important issue is that differences of opinion can be used to strengthen a system or to undermine a system. In one system for example, there may be a difference of opinion between the people and the municipality. There will always be elements infiltrating the people and the municipality who will be able to trigger untoward incidents.

In many cases, the people themselves exercise control and stem the infiltrating elements; that is, they separate the counterrevolution from themselves. Such elements may also be present in government departments. Does our government say that in this vast administrative machinery there are no infiltrating elements? One such element is enough to serve as a catalyst.

Our leader says: I am the servant of the people. Therefore, if one person insults people in one administrative department, he is, in fact, assuming the posture of insulting the entire apparatus and system.

The people know full well that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has devoted his life, from morning to evening, to helping the country. They realize that their officials are working for the nation's prosperity. If someone utters something bad in one government organization, it means that the remark is directed against the president and the government. It should be stressed that the bankrupt counter-revolutionary elements have realized this too late. They recently sent three espionage teams here all of which were arrested inside the country.

The Monafeqin were not involved in the recent unrest; some hooligans and ruffians were involved and a few pro-monarchist elements. I want to say that the Hezbolahi Guards Corps and the Basijis will never allow us to regress. We will defend the revolution at all cost. We are not afraid of killing or being killed. We will not allow this historic opportunity for reconstruction—which has arisen for our nation to compensate for our backwardness of the past 300 years—to be lost.

We fought for our holy defense for this reason, and we offered so many martyrs. Any plot hatched today, whether within the country or along the borders, will be crushed. We will never shirk in delivering a strong reaction to all such attempts.

Commentary Details Methods of 'Struggle'

NC0207160092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Vast Field for Struggles"]

[Text] For nearly 13 years the heroic Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan have been staging an extensive, all-embracing struggle against the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic. Although this extensive struggle, aimed at establishing freedom and democracy

throughout Iran and ensuring the national rights of the Kurdish people, has various forms, armed struggle has been its most notable.

It is clear why the Kurdish people have chosen armed struggle. From the start, instead of trying to answer the Kurdish people's requests, the Islamic Republic adopted suppressive measures and imposed an unequal war on these people. It even issued orders for jihad against the people of Kordestan. Thus, these people had no alternative but to take up arms to defend their existence and to fulfill their objectives.

Naturally the spectacular continuation of the Kordestan people's armed struggle shows that the Kurdish people are ready to continue the most devoted form of struggle. We should not forget that if we rely on this method of struggle, stressing its place as the only means to our liberation and not attaching the necessary importance to other methods, armed struggle will not be as effective as it can be. Armed struggle against the clerical regime, which understands only force, is more effective than any other struggle, but it cannot answer every problem or create the conditions to force the regime to kneel. We must look to other forms of struggle that have, more or less, been used along with armed struggle.

Attaching the right significance to the various methods of struggle requires every one of the people of Kordestan to understand Kordestan's historic and special place in the current circumstances. If they can comprehend this important position the people of Kordestan can feel more responsible for the duty they have been assigned by the revolutionary movement of Kordestan. By understanding life's special circumstances, each person can then play a more active role in this struggle.

What is this special historic position? First, we know the Kurdish people are struggling for freedom and democracy for all Iran. All Iran's peoples and opposition parties and organizations are involved in this struggle, but Kordestan claims most of the action. Because they are so politically mature and have such a long history of struggle, the Kurdish people quickly realized the true nature of the Islamic republic. Organized and commanded by the Demoratic Party of Kordestan of Iran, when there was suspicion about the regime in other parts of Iran, Kordestan became the frontline barricade in the struggle for freedom and democracy.

The revolutionary movement of Kordestan is a national movement that demands autonomy for the Kurdish people. This request, even if apparently only for the Kurdish people, is actually the key to solving the national problem for other oppressed peoples who are deprived of their national rights—people such as the Azerbaijanis, Baluchis, Arabs, Turkmens, and others. The Kordestan movement has become a source of hope for all the peoples of Iran as far as democracy and national rights are concerned. While the Kurdish people's special position among Iran's other peoples is considered a great honor for the Kurdish people, it has

also made the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic use all its strength to pressure the Kurdish people and crush their movement. It has also made it more difficult for the Kordestan people to fulfill their duty to make their sacred struggle succeed.

Part of the people of Kordestan's duty is linked with armed struggle; the other part with other methods of struggle. The first part—duties in the armed struggle and the peshmerga force—is not limited to one or two obligations. It starts with joining the peshmerga and taking up arms to defend respect for the Kurdish people. Whoever chooses this path will be positioning himself behind the important and sacred barricade of struggle. This is the particular duty of the youth of Kordestan, and every patriotic family should try to encourage its youth to join the peshmerga forces instead of enlisting in the army and being used by the regime as traitors.

Cooperation with the peshmerga and party activists is among the biggest duties of the people of Kordestan. This cooperation can take various forms—supplying food, clothing, and other needs; informing the peshmerga of the enemy's movements, attacks, or ambushes; giving them directions as they move from one point to the other; and hiding them. At the other end of the scale there is gathering information on the regime's bases and camps, identifying spies and traitors, and identifying arms depots and storage areas for the regime's fuel and basic supplies so that the peshmerga force can inflict blows on them when the time is right.

Apart from this cooperation, in which everyone can get involved, those who want to cooperate with the party regularly and in an organized way can take the initiative. They can, with their closest and most reliable friends, form small organizational cells to carry out the same duties assigned to the party's small primary cells before being elevated to party formations.

There are other duties, including a negative approach and political struggle. Within this context the people of Kordestan, particularly, and those throughout Iran, in general, face many opportunities. Each person can express his opposition to the regime and his sympathies with the movement in any way he can. We should understand that such struggle, in which the regime faces all the people, will inflict major pressures, so the people of Kordestan should seize every opportunity to let the regime's elements see the people are fed up with them. They should also express their hatred in various ways.

First, there should be no associating with regime officials and mercenaries, who should be shunned so that their needs will not be met. There are various excuses for rejecting their requests. In short, any cooperation with and assistance to the regime should be avoided. Then, regime-organized meetings and gatherings should either be boycotted or attended with the intention of expressing dissatisfaction and ridiculing the regime. Regime fan-fares, such as the Friday prayers and meetings and other contrived demonstrations, should be avoided.

Extremely effective are tearing down the regime's statements and posters from walls, saying no to regime requests for assistance, creating fear and terror among the regime's men, trying to spread disunity among the suppressive forces and the various ruling organs, and striving to force the traitors and soldiers to lay down their arms. Disobeying regime orders such as those on Islamic attire, on dress code, on listening to music, and on participating in some sports are other methods of struggle.

Politically speaking, sympathizing with the families of political prisoners; meeting the needs of martyrs' and peshmergas' families; going to martyrs' graves on celebrations and on 30 March, the day for commemorating the Kordestan martyrs; and refusing to attend the funerals of regime men will be a thorn in the enemy's side.

Teachers and students, workers, merchants, farmers, soldiers, clergymen, and, generally, every group in Kordestan have a way to express hatred of the regime and support for the movement. The leaders of this method of struggle should pay special attention to organizing marches, strikes, and demonstrations and should—by creating small cells—organize this method of struggle to further extend it among the masses. Naturally, struggle activists identified by the enemy and facing arrest can seek refuge among the peshmerga.

We should never neglect the important principle that various methods of struggle complement armed struggle and that if these methods are used in parallel, freedom's enemies and those who trample on Iranian human rights will be pushed close to their downfall sooner.

Besharati, Kenyan Minister Discuss Ties, RSA

*LD1207195192 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT
12 Jul 92*

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told visiting Kenyan Minister of Culture and Social Services James Njiru here Sunday that Iran supports the struggles of the South African people against the pro-apartheid regime ruling that country.

Besharati also expressed hope that the South African people would soon gain victory over the racist regime in Pretoria and establish a democratic system of government.

Njiru said the opening of an Iranian library and a commercial bureau in Nairobi and establishment of air links between the two countries were indications of good relations between Tehran and Nairobi.

He also requested that the Islamic Republic of Iran assist his country.

The two underscored the need for both countries to continue their cooperation in political, cultural and economic fields.

Wide-Ranging Bilateral Accord Signed With India

BK1107033592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] India and Iran have signed an agreement on bilateral political, economic, trade, cultural, and consular ties, as well as regional and international cooperation. The agreement was signed in Tehran yesterday by Iran's First Deputy Minister Mr. Ali Mohammad Besharati and India's Foreign Secretary Mr. J.N. Dixit. Later, talking to reporters at Mehrabad airport, Mr. Dixit expressed the hope that exchange of visits between the senior officials of India and Iran would help further promote and expand relations between the two countries.

Bank Governor Reports Positive Trade Balance

LD1207184392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met today and discussed important domestic events. Later, Mr. Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, briefed the Cabinet about the calculation of national indicators for the year 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991].

According to the Central Bank's initial calculations, the gross domestic product, on the basis of current prices, reached the level of 46.777 billion rials, and the gross domestic product has shown a 10-percent increase on the basis of 1370 (?constant) prices. This increase is made up, among others, with a 5.1-percent increase in the agricultural sector; 9.9 percent in the oil sector; 18.5 percent the industries and mining sector; 27.1 percent the electricity, gas and water sector; 8.8 percent construction sector; and 5.5 percent in the services sector.

According to the report, the figures for the net national expenditure reveals a reduction in the growth of private and public consumption expenses, reaching the figures of 7.2 percent and 4.9 percent. This indicates a 12.1-percent increase in capital formation in the year 1370; a growth which is related to increased development investments in the country.

According to the report, the country's trade balance, which was negative in the previous year, changed to a 0.4-percent positive balance in 1370. This shows an improvement in the conditions of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries. [passage omitted]

Commentary Assails Tax on World Oil Imports

NC0907070092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Today's commentary is devoted to the two-day energy conference which was held in Norway. Petroleum

and energy ministers from 25 major oil-producing and oil-consuming countries attended, including Iranian Petroleum Minister Engineer 'Aqazadeh. The conference discussed coordinating views on world energy policy and the proposal to tax the oil imports of industrialized countries.

An unprecedented change has taken place in the international system, which until recently was based on a bipolar system. A new system, with the economic element taking priority over political elements and featuring the expansion of international understanding, is slowly replacing the cold war system. Oil has largely lost its political significance, and in the post-cold war era the need for cooperation between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries is becoming increasingly clear. Today all countries are interlinked. Everyone should accept the reality that if the world economy is to adopt a new order, it should benefit all countries.

It has been shown that the continuation of economic growth in the industrialized world ensures the demand for oil. Meanwhile, if we are to plan correctly for economic growth in the industrialized world, oil-exporting countries need to have a minimum oil income guaranteed. Economic growth in the industrialized world need not contradict growth in developing countries; these two trends can continue in the same direction and complement each other.

As far as Iran is concerned, if industrialized countries want to adopt a realistic policy to ensure their long-term energy needs, they should refrain from pressures meant to reduce oil prices. The world's energy market needs to solve its major problems, and advocating such things as taxing oil imports is a major obstacle to the development and improvement of the world's energy resources. Taxing the oil imports of industrialized countries will reduce the demand for oil, and in turn the income of oil-exporting countries, and will seriously threaten plans to increase the production capacity of oil-producing countries to meet world demands.

Economic observers believe that oil income helps OPEC members develop their economies and creates favorable conditions for political and social stability. Naturally, it should be noted that the security of this region is linked with ensuring the security of world energy supplies.

Port Transportation, Shipping Figures Detailed

LD0807194992 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The first phase of Khorramshahr Port (in Khuzestan Province) is to be exploited in August during the government week, said Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia here today.

He said at a news conference that the annual loading and off-loading of Iranian ports will be over 30 million tons of goods by the end of the current five-year plan.

50 percent of Iran's exports and imports by the ports is done by Iranian Marine Fleet as indicated in the plan, he said.

The minister added 47 million dollars was paid as dead-time after the arrival of vessels last year, down by 33 percent as compared to three years ago.

The Managing Director of Ports and Shipping Company Mohammad Madad said the plan envisages that the annual goods transportation by ports be 16 million tons, while the total of imports and exports was 23,600,000 tons last year.

Madad added the annual loading and off-loading of containers will be 120,000 tons of goods by the end of the five-year plan. He said more than 670,000 tons of goods were transported last year, which indicated a growth.

The managing director of the shipping company Mohamad Hoseyn Dajmar said the company transports 2,350,000 tons of goods by 110 boats, which is four times more than it was at the turn of the revolution (1979).

Dajmar added that last year the shipping fleet transported 10.5 million out of the total 17 million tons of goods, of which the fleet of shipping organization transported 6.6 million tons of goods and the rest was transported under the supervision of the shipping organization.

Managing Director of Iran Air Hasan Shafti said 3,115 million dollars was earmarked for the purchase of aircraft and related investments in that area. He added five passenger planes would become inoperational this year.

Shafti said Iran Air has chartered five Russian Tupolovs which, he added, had transported over 110,000 passengers. 'Iran Air Tour' affiliated to Iran Air operates the planes, he said.

Construction Ministry, UNDP To Build Plants

LD0807180292 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The Construction Jihad Ministry of Iran here Wednesday entered into an agreement with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) for erecting a dates packaging plant and another plant for extracting dates juice.

The agreement was signed by the Deputy Construction Jihad Minister Hasan Qolibayghiyani and UNDP's resident representative in Tehran Michael Scholenburg.

The two plants, the first of their type in Iran, are to become operational in Rudan of Hormuzgan Province of Iran in 1994.

The foreign currency budget for the project is \$600,000, \$200,000 by the UNDP and the remaining by the Construction Jihad Ministry. The rial allocation for the project is 340 million.

Iran annually produces 320,000 tons of dates between 70,000 and 80,000 of it in the littoral Hormuzgan Province.

Ninety per cent of Iran's dates are packaged in traditional form and 80 per cent of the total production of dates is consumed domestically.

For the time being only 10 per cent of the Iranian dates are exported. The juice of the remaining 10 per cent is extracted for various purposes in Iran.

Deputy Minister Explains Reasons for Power Cuts

LD0807202992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpt] In a meeting with our correspondent today the deputy energy minister in charge of electricity commented on recent power cuts throughout the country. He said that the amount of power lost through cuts in the national grid system is 94 million kWh [kilowatt-hour], or less than 1 percent of the total consumption of the whole country. The Energy Ministry provides 99 percent of the needed electricity.

He termed the early start of the hot weather and maintenance work on some units in three power plants in the country as the main reasons for the recent power cuts in the national grid. He added: When the basic work on those three power plants is finished at the end of this week, there will be fewer power cuts. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Troops Begin Final Phase of Clearing Iyakachchi

BK1107115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Troops of Operation Balawegaya-II commenced the final phase of clearing Iyakachchi and sealing off all land routes from the peninsula to the mainland. The Joint Operations Command headquarters said that terrorists, having offered stiff resistance, initially started fleeing northward. It is estimated that over 100 terrorists were killed by ground, air, and artillery action. Troops recovered 11 bodies of terrorists, weapons, large stocks of Arul grenades, improvised explosive devices, and mines. Troops are consolidating their positions in the area between Elephant Pass and Vettalaikerny.

Strategic Town Captured

BK1007112892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Troops of Operation Balawegaya-II captured the strategic LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]-held junction town of Iyakachchi, 8 km north of Elephant Pass on the A9 Highway leading to Chavakachcheri and

Jaffna, yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that around 75 terrorists were killed in fierce fighting as the Balawegaya troops had by strong air, artillery, and heavy armored support stormed through the LTTE line and marched into the Tigers' stronghold.

Overnight Death Toll Reaches 266 in Latest Battle

BK1007113692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Colombo, July 10 (AFP)—Heavy fighting continued Friday in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast where Tamil separatists killed 16 soldiers in a single ambush to raise the overnight death toll to 266, the military said.

Dozens of heavily armed guerrillas of the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), ambushed an army patrol in coastal Trincomalee District, killing 16 soldiers and wounding three, officials said.

"We rushed reinforcements and deployed helicopter gunships to attack the terrorists fleeing after the ambush. We believe about 30 terrorists were killed in the counter-attack," a local official said.

He said the guerrillas may have carried out the attack to divert the attention of troops involved in the latest military campaign in the Jaffna peninsula.

The ambush came as thousands of heavily armed soldiers backed by tanks advanced on LTTE positions at the southern tip of the peninsula to seal off strategic land routes from the mainland.

A military spokesman here said 18 soldiers died in an intense overnight battle to take the key village of Iyakachchi at the neck of the Jaffna peninsula used by the rebels as a gateway to the rest of the mainland.

Ground troops and pilots estimated that at least 200 rebels had been killed, raising the death toll in a 24-hour period to 264. Tigers' estimates for army losses were not immediately available.

"Our men are consolidating their positions in Iyakachchi and clearing the area of mines. We are going to hold on to the area we have captured," the spokesman said. He said infantry soldiers had recovered 11 bodies of LTTE men and also recovered weapons.

Two more soldiers were killed when LTTE gunmen fired heavy machine guns Friday at an army bunker outside the main Pally airbase in the peninsula, a military statement said.

Thursday's offensive to take control of Iyakachchi was part of the drive launched June 28 to secure an eight-kilometer (six-mile) stretch between the strategic Elephant Pass army garrison and a beach head controlled by troops.

Since then, 99 security personnel, including 27 airmen and an estimated 570 LTTE cadres have been killed in the northeast, according to military estimates.

The airmen perished when their Chinese-built Y-8 military aircraft crashed near Iyakachchi Sunday while ferrying ammunition, explosives, fuel and food in support of troops involved in the fighting.

Eight more airmen were killed in an LTTE ambush in Trincomalee District a week ago.

Iyakachchi is located about five kilometers (three miles) north of the Elephant Pass camp and straddles a key highway leading to the town of Jaffna where the LTTE has its headquarters.

Troops on Tuesday reached the southern side of the sprawling Elephant Pass base after taking control of the vital land route.

The LTTE is seeking to establish a separate state in the northeast called Eelam for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils who allege discrimination by majority Sinhalese. Thousands have died in the independence campaign.

Heavy LTTE Casualties in Mannar, Vavuniya

BK1107165092 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1626 GMT 11 Jul 92

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Jul (LANKAPUVATH)—Heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] casualties were reported as Sri Lanka Air Force SIA Machetti fighter bombers and helicopters located and attacked late Saturday evening a group of about 100 terrorists who had raided the security forces outpost at Katupotha, on border of Vavuniya and Mannar Districts in the early hours of the morning.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that an Air Force reconnaissance plane had spotted the terrorists, as they emerged from the jungle at Andiyankulam, south of Madhu junction, eight kilometres from Katupotha, near the Wilpattu game sanctuary.

Earlier in the day, these terrorists had attacked the Katupotha outpost, killing 46 soldiers who although heavily outnumbered, fought bravely and killed at least 25 of the attackers with the support of reinforcements.

The sources said that the air force planes had also destroyed two truckloads of terrorists in the attack on the LTTE column at 1745 hours (local time) Saturday.

Army Reports 46 Soldiers, 25 Terrorists Killed

BK1107100692 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0914 GMT 11 Jul 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Jul (LANKAPUVATH)—Forty six soldiers and at least 25 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed when terrorists in strength firing rocket propelled grenades and small arms attacked the security forces' forward defences at Katupotha surrounded by thick jungle, close to the Wilpattu game sanctuary on the border of the northern districts of Mannar and Vavuniya, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that around 0300 hours (local time) [2130 GMT] Saturday [11 July], terrorists in strength attacked the forward defences at Katupotha. Reinforcements including armour were rushed to the scene of the incident. The confrontation lasted for about two hours. As a result of this attack, 46 soldiers have been killed and 11 wounded.

Troops have so far recovered the body of one dead terrorist.

Troops have seen at least 20-25 terrorists either killed or wounded being carried by the terrorists.

Security forces have also sprung a series of ambushes covering likely escape routes of terrorists.

A search is now on for terrorist bodies.

Tamils Inflict Heavy Army Casualties

BK1107053592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0519 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Colombo, July 11 (AFP)—Dominant Tamil guerrillas Saturday claimed they had inflicted heavy casualties on government troops and destroyed another Chinese-built tank in fighting in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas launched counter attacks on the Sri Lankan troops at Vettalaikerni in the northern Jaffna peninsula on Thursday and "inflicted heavy casualties," the rebels said in a statement.

"In this engagement another Chinese made T55 tank was totally destroyed. This is the third T55 tank destroyed by LTTE at Vettalaikerni," said the statement, received here from the LTTE's London office.

The guerrillas last week claimed they had destroyed two T55 tanks in fierce battles in Vettalaikerni at the neck of the Jaffna peninsula, the theatre of a major military operation since June 28.

The latest LTTE claim and the previous ones have been dismissed by the military here as "propaganda."

The LTTE statement said only 18 of its cadres were killed in fighting at Vettalaikerni on Thursday. A military spokesman said 18 soldiers and an estimated 200 Tigers were killed in fierce battles in the region.

Three LTTE fighters were killed when an LTTE commando unit attacked and destroyed a forward post of the army outside the main Palaly airbase in the Jaffna peninsula Friday, the statement said.

It said that on the same day LTTE guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in northeastern Trincomalee killing 18 soldiers, and removed two light machine guns and 16 AK-47 rifles from the scene. Rebels did not suffer casualties.

A military spokesman said 16 soldiers were gunned down in the LTTE attack in Trincomalee but troops retaliated by killing about 30 Tigers. Two more died at Palaly when troops repulsed the rebel strike, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile military sources said troops Friday recovered five bodies from the wreckage of a high-capacity Chinese-built transport plane that crashed in Iyakachchi village in the Jaffna peninsula.

Nineteen airmen perished when their Y-8 military aircraft crashed Sunday while ferrying ammunition, explosives, fuel and food in support of troops involved in the fighting.

The LTTE for its part had claimed downing the plane but the airforce had said a structural weakness was the probable cause of the crash.

47 Killed in Army Camp Attack

BK1107063892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Text] Colombo, July 11 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas wiped out 47 soldiers Saturday in a massive attack on a small army camp in northern Sri Lanka, officials here said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas attacked the Katupotha camp located along the borders of Mannar and Vavuniya Districts mid-afternoon, killing 47 soldiers, a military spokesman said.

He said 11 soldiers who were wounded were taken to hospitals in neighbouring districts. The attack came amid military operations in northern Jaffna peninsula, the main stronghold of the LTTE.